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Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister of Karnataka

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Singh Saini-led BJP govt. wins trust vote

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Time to tackle learning deficit in classrooms

Teachers will have to actively engage students

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Cut ties with brother Babun, says Mamata

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SC to hear plea to include CJI on EC selection panel

NGO tells Supreme Court that Centre can take 'unfair advantage' while filling two vacancies; organisation asks the court to stay the new law on appointment of Election Commissioners

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to urgently hear on Friday a plea which said the Centre could take "unfair advantage" while filling the two vacancies of Election Commissioners (ECs) in the Election Commission of India (ECI) following the unexpected resignation of Arun Goel ahead of the Lok Sabha elections.

A Bench headed by Justice Sanjiv Khanna agreed to list for hearing the plea by NGO Association for Democratic Reforms, which said the new law on the appointments of ECs should be put on hold.

The NGO said the Chief Justice of India (CJI) should be brought back on board the high-profile selection committee headed by the Prime Minister for appointments of ECs to the top poll body as directed by a landmark Supreme Court judgment in the *Anoop Baranwal* case of March 2, 2023.

"Now, the Executive has the ability to appoint two Election Commissioners which can give an unfair advantage to the Executive. The role of the Election Commission is critical in ensuring free and fair elections and therefore, the appointments must also be seen to be fair and free from any bias or latches to the government of that time," the organisation, represented by advocate Prashant Bhushan and Cheryl D'Souza, submitted.

In *Anoop Baranwal versus Union of India* in March last year, a Constitution Bench headed by Justice K.M. Joseph (now retired) ordered the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and two ECs to be appointed by the President on the advice tendered by a committee of Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha or the leader of the single largest party in Opposition and the CJI.

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Matter of concern

The NGO's plea before the Supreme Court has asked for these specific interventions

- Stay the implementation of Section 7 of The Chief Election Commission and other Election Commissions (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023
- Direct the Union of India to appoint the vacant positions of Election Commissioners, till the pendency of the case in the Supreme Court, in accordance with the Selection Committee laid down by the *Anoop Baranwal vs Union of India* judgment of March 2023
- Bring the CJI back on board the high-profile selection committee headed by the Prime Minister for appointment of ECs

Will publish details of poll bonds 'in time', says CEC

Rajiv Kumar addresses a press conference on poll preparedness for the upcoming Lok Sabha election, in Jammu. PTI

The Hindu Bureau
JAMMU

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar on Wednesday said that the Commission would share details of electoral bonds "in time" and asserted that it believed in complete transparency.

The State Bank of India (SBI) was directed by the SC to submit the data by March 12. "They have given us the details in time. I will look at the data, and will definitely disclose it in time," he said, speaking in Jammu where he was ending his nationwide visits before announcing the Lok Sabha election schedule.

He said the Commission believed only "in disclosure, disclosure and disclosure" to ensure high standards of transparency. SBI has issued bonds worth ₹16,518 crore in 30 tranches since 2018.

DATA ON ELECTORAL BONDS » PAGE 16

HC dismisses Cong. plea in tax dues case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday rejected the plea by the Congress challenging an order of the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) declining to stay an Income Tax department notice to the party for recovery of outstanding tax of over ₹100 crore.

"The problems that beset the petitioner [Congress] today are thus, and to a large extent, of its own making," the High Court said noting that the party has been "remiss in taking peremptory steps in respect of a demand that had remained outstanding right from 2021".

Senior advocate Vivek Tankha, representing the Congress, had said that the notification for the Lok Sabha election is expected in the next few days and the party is under tremendous pressure as its bank accounts have been frozen.

The court pointed out that though the I-T department issued notice as far back as in July 2021, and the first application by the party for complete stay was rejected in October that year, "no concrete steps appear to have been taken by the petitioner to either consider securitising the outstanding demand or to seek appropriate interim protection".

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Yaduveer, Manjunath and Bommai get BJP ticket, as party replaces candidates in 10 seats

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Scion of the erstwhile royal family of Mysuru Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, noted cardiologist C.N. Manjunath and the former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai are among those set to contest the Lok Sabha polls from Karnataka on the BJP ticket, as the party has replaced candidates in 10 constituencies out of 20 for which the names were announced on Wednesday.

While nine are fresh contestants, Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje has been shifted from Udupi-Chikkamagaluru to Bengaluru North constituency in place of incumbent MP and former Chief Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda. Udupi-Chikkamgaluru had seen resistance to renominating her with some of the party workers staging "Shobha go back" campaign. Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Kota Srinivas Poojary has been fielded from Udupi-Chikkamagaluru from where senior leader C.T. Ravi was keen to contest.

Dr. Manjunath, son-in-law of JD(S) supremo H.D. Deve Gowda, will be locking horns with Congress leader and shrewd poll strategist D.K. Suresh, the brother of Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, for Bengaluru Rural seat. The cardiologist, who met BJP veteran B.S. Yediyurappa on Wednesday, is set to join the saffron party formally on Thursday.

The prominent leaders, who have been dropped, include journalist-turned-MP Pratap Simha, who has been replaced by Mr. Wadiyar for the Mysuru seat, and the former party State president Nalin Kumar Kateel, who has been replaced by Capt. Brijesh Chowta from Dakshina Kannada, besides Mr. Sadananda Gowda.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar and C.N. Manjunath. The BJP named candidates for 20 of the 28 Lok Sabha seats in the State.

Governor stalls move to re-induct Ponmudy

S. Vijay Kumar
Dennis S. Jesudasan
CHENNAI

In yet another stand-off with the Tamil Nadu government, Governor R.N. Ravi has put on hold the proposed swearing-in of senior DMK leader and former Minister K. Ponmudy to re-induct him into the Cabinet.

The former Higher Education Minister was disqualified as MLA after the Madras High Court sentenced him to three years in jail in a disproportionate assets case in December.

After the Supreme Court stayed his conviction and sentence, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin had sought time from the Governor on Wednesday or Thursday for Mr. Ponmudy's swearing-in, official sources said.

Sources in the Raj Bhavan said Mr. Ravi would travel to Delhi on Thursday on a three-day visit. As regards the swearing-in, the Raj Bhavan has sought legal opinion from experts.

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R. N. Ravi

NEARBY

Water still costs over ₹2,000 per tanker load

BENGALURU
Despite a cap on water tanker prices by the district administration in Bengaluru, water tanker loads of 12,000 litres continue to cost over ₹2,000. The cap has had little effect on water tanker prices and enforcement has been nil, complain residents. The district administration has not issued specific rates for 4,000 litre loads, but has capped 6,000 litre loads at ₹750. » PAGE 2

Kerala rejects Centre's one-time offer of ₹5,000 cr. to tide over fund crunch

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The bugle has sounded for a legal battle between the Centre and Kerala in the Supreme Court, after the Union government said on Wednesday that it could only spare ₹5,000 crore as a one-time measure to avert an immediate financial crisis in the State.

The amount offered by the Union government will not be enough to fulfil Kerala's most basic financial commitments, including pensions and salaries, senior advocate Kapil Sibal and C.K. Sasi, representing the State, told a Bench of Justices Surya Kant and K.V. Viswanathan.

The Union government also said it would deduct ₹5,000 crore from the State's net borrowing ceiling in the first nine months of the financial year 2024-2025, and stipulated that the State would not be allowed any "ad hoc" borrowing in 2024-2025 if it takes the ₹5,000 crore being proffered now.

Rejecting the offer, Mr. Sibal said: "We want an absolute minimum of at least ₹10,000 crore. This ₹5,000 crore does not take us anywhere. I will not be able to pay my people."

The court was hearing an original suit filed by Kerala accusing the Centre of interfering with its financial affairs in violation of the principle of federalism.

Hearing next week

In an earlier hearing, Justice Kant said the suit was probably the first of its kind in the Supreme Court. The court listed the case to hear arguments for interim relief on March 21.

The Bench had initially urged the Centre and State to resolve the issue out of court. But Wednesday's hearing saw any hope for an amicable resolution fade away as Additional Solicitor General N. Venkataraman, appearing for the Union government, read from a note detailing the statistical projections and reasons for limiting financial help to Kerala. "So, the negotiation part is over. You have made your position clear. Your note is self-explanatory," Justice Kant said after the reading.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 16

> We want an absolute minimum of at least ₹10,000 crore. This ₹5,000 crore does not take us anywhere. I will not be able to pay my people
>
> **KAPIL SIBAL**
> Counsel for Kerala

Nominations secure, Biden and Trump set for rematch

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump clinched their parties' presidential nominations on Tuesday with decisive victories in a slate of low-profile primaries, setting up a general election rematch.

The outcome of contests across Georgia, Mississippi and Washington state was never in doubt. Neither Mr. Biden, a Democrat, nor Mr. Trump, a Republican, faced major opposition. But the magnitude of their wins gave each man the delegate majority he needed to claim his party's nomination at the summertime national conventions.

Not even halfway through the presidential primary calendar, Tuesday marked a crystalising moment for a nation uneasy with its choices in 2024.

At 81, Mr. Biden is already the oldest President in U.S. history, while the 77-year-old Mr. Trump is facing decades in prison as a defendant in four criminal cases.

Their rematch – the first featuring two U.S. presidents since 1912 – will almost certainly deepen the nation's searing political and cultural divides over the eight-month grind that lies ahead.

While Biden termed Trump a serious threat to the country, Trump said Biden was the worst President in the history of the U.S. AP

Perry proves she's cricket's Vitruvian woman

The Perry we see now is a far cry from the Perry of the past. The cherubic multi-sport player has evolved into a cheerful realist, working hard to keep a steady head

R.V. MOORTHY

Lavanya Lakshminarayanan

Watching Ellyse Perry ply her trade is like watching a National Geographic documentary. Think the ones set against the absorbing baritone of David Attenborough; ones about apex predators effortlessly striking down their prey. There's a lot of hubbub around her but she, in the centre of it all, is unbothered. No aggression, no provocation, just results.

Ironically though, her side – Royal Challengers Bangalore – was the one trying to escape the claws of a much stronger opponent in Mumbai Indians. The stakes? Securing the final spot in the playoffs bracket of the Women's Premier League which also has two other franchises – Gujarat Giants and UP Warriorz – circling the skies around the kill, looking to usurp it for themselves.

Big fights demand big fighters. Perry is as warrior-like as they come in women's cricket. Quietly, often letting her bat and ball do the talking, Perry has – for decades – shown a world sceptical of women's cricket that the girls could play and play marvellously well.

The 33-year-old is a genuine all-rounder and, despite injury struggles every now and again, has an enviable record with bat, ball and the on the field. She's the kind of player you want in the team when you've got your backs to the wall. On a night when her team needed a hero, Perry took six ruthless wickets, took a catch and scored an unbeaten 38-ball 40 to take her team into the playoffs.

Six degrees of supremacy

Smriti Mandhana introduced Perry in the seventh over with MI having lost Hayley Matthews fairly early, courtesy a sharp sliding catch from Perry at deep square leg. S. Sajana was the side's makeshift opener in Yastika Bhatia's absence and understood the brief of keeping the scoreboard ticking. Perry was miserly in her first over, giving away just two runs and asking questions aplenty of Sajana and Nat Sciver-Brunt. She bowled to the stumps, keeping things simple, trying to get the ball into the batter, her consistency at hitting that line almost Test-like. She returned in the ninth over, giving away a generous half volley off the third ball. Sajana was happy to dispatch the ball to the fence. Perry punished her moments after, with a jaffa clipping Sajana's off stump. That already got fans on their feet, but the volumes would hit fever pitch a few seconds later when Harmanpreet chopped a delivery floating outside off back on to the stumps off the very next ball. Two deliveries, two off stumps left glowing in red at 60 degree inclinations.

Perry's next victim was Amelia Kerr with the ball beating her defence and brushing the back pad. Paschim Pathak was not moved by Perry's persistent appeals. After a conversation with Richa Ghosh and Smriti, a review was taken, showing the ball crashing into the leg stump. Amanjot Kaur was the next batter who thought she could take the bull in red, black and gold by the horns, starting with a boundary that split the field between square and fine leg. But Perry was not to be toyed with, sending in a back of a length delivery that pitched outside off and then swung in to clip the off stump bail.

"You must be kidding! How are you getting so much deviation off this surface!" a gobsmacked W.V. Raman exclaimed on comms.

Perry bowled out in the 13th over, taking out Pooja Vastrakar and Sciver-Brunt in the span of four balls. Perry uprooted Pooja's off-stump as she tried to swing big to reach her five-for. Sciver-Brunt was trapped leg-before, with the ball heading into the side of her front pad.

"The conditions were conducive to the ball moving around a bit off the seam. When that happens, you can get it close to the stumps," Perry said in her assessment of her spell.

"Even Mumbai maximised on that when they were targeting the stumps I think we got a good grasp of the game. Something we targeted was starting the PowerPlay well with our bowling and that came together and I am glad to be a part of it."

Her contribution did not end there as she steadied a dicey chase and brought up a win with Richa Ghosh, the hero of a heartbreaking effort against Delhi Capitals, for company.

Charlotte Edwards, coach of Mumbai Indians, was helpless as she watched along from the team dugout.

"I still stand by what I said five years ago: she is the greatest player I have seen with bat and ball and on the field. She is an unbelievable person as well. We are lucky to have Ellyse in our game as a role model. Sometimes you just have to say well done to the opposition when they've done better than us," she conceded after the game.

A rematch of the same fixture awaits Edwards and Co. in the Eliminator on Friday and she's counting on Perry running out of luck.

"She had a great day today, hopefully she won't have such a good day on Friday. We are watching greatness, and she will be around for longer," she added.

One with the elements

Perry is happy to credit every external factor she can find for her success – her team, the wicket, the nip in the air, even luck! For the uninitiated, the first thought is humility." In Perry's case, that's not all. It's how that slate remains free of old adamant chalk marks. After a night like this, she reveals that she had a chocolate brownie with ice-cream along with her teammates, put on her reading glasses and caught up on some reading.

"It's easy to get carried away when things go well for you but I feel like a lot of the time, we don't have a lot of control over things going well for you. Of course, you work hard and put yourself in good positions but there are so many other factors that go into the outcome of a game. As I've grown older, I've learnt not to overreact either way whether it's a good night or a bad night."

"As I said, the sun comes up the next day. Thankfully, there's always another opportunity to play games quickly. Whether that goes well or not, we're so lucky to be out there playing in front of these big crowds that are so fanatical about the game, which is a far cry from what it was like when I first started playing. There was no one coming to our games and no interest in the sport like there is now," Perry said.

Gunning for glory

Perry's transformation in the Australian setup is fabled. So competitive is this world-beating outfit that it did not hesitate to drop the veteran player in T20Is when her form was not fitting into the team's jigsaw. Her career, since then, is one we can trace in two time periods, before and after that decision.

The Perry we see now is a far cry from the Perry of the past. The cherubic multi-sport player evolved into a cheerful realist, working hard to keep a steady head as she meandered through her roles in the team. Over the last few years, including her run in Australia's winter fixtures in India, one saw her bowl far less than one is used to, particularly in this format. Her strike rate benefited as a result. She returned to her boundary-clearing form, strengthening the spine of the Australian effort with the bat.

Perry and those around her broke this turn of fortune to a mindset switch.

"Skills aside, one important thing is to be open to changing your mindset and be able to look at the game and yourself differently. When you've been playing for a while and things have gone okay for you, it's easy to get stuck on defining yourself as that player and one of the cool challenges is trying to stay open to what else is possible and being effective. It's about looking for new potential, even within."

Ahead of this match against MI this season, Perry had bowled six overs going wicketless. So the six she managed going up against a line-up featuring the likes of the cream of international stars makes one wonder if the Australian management is taking notes. Perry isn't wondering as the only thing she takes home is the satisfaction of working for the team.

"I've never looked at it that way, to be honest. The thing I've enjoyed the most is the success we've had as a team in various competitions. Being involved in some World Cup wins and Ashes series triumphs is incredibly satisfying. Rankings and individual successes are so fleeting and unsatisfying in comparison to team successes. Neither have been particularly relevant to me. Just being here has been most gratifying," she said with a shrug.

"Without a doubt, being a part of women's cricket when it just exploded... to think I am sitting here in a chair in the WPL, with crowds over 20,000 and 30,000 people is mind-boggling."

For years, Perry has been the sport's Vitruvian woman, the symbol of renaissance in the women's game. It's in moments like this the Wahroonga-born firecracker provides proof of why she is rated so highly and across so many generations, and grateful are we to have the opportunity to bear witness.

THE GIST

- Perry became the first player to take six wickets in a WPL match, breaking Marizanne Kapp's record of five for 15 for Capitals against Giants in the inaugural edition
- Perry is the first player (man or woman) to score a century and take six-wicket hauls in First Class (6/32), List A (7/22) and T20 cricket
- For RCB, Perry has scored 246 runs in seven innings at an average of 61.50 and a strike-rate of 130.15. She has remained unbeaten thrice
- The Australian has been a valuable member of the RCB leadership group, doubling up as a sounding board for skipper Smriti Mandhana and being a pillar of support for the younger crop

Despite cap, water still costs over ₹2,000 per tanker load

Residents say water tanker dealers complain that the price limit fixed by the government is unviable and they can supply water only at higher rates. Most of the water tanker dealers in the city have rejected the ceiling on the price saying it is 'unscientific' and 'divorced from ground reality', and that it does not apply to them at all

WATER WOES

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

Despite a cap on water tanker prices by the district administration in Bengaluru, water tanker loads of 12,000 litres continue to cost over ₹2,000.

The cap has had little effect on water tanker prices on the ground and enforcement has been almost nil, complain residents.

Nayaz Khan, a resident of Varthur, said when asked about charging more than the price cap, water tanker dealers complained that what the government had fixed was unviable and they could supply water at only higher rates.

"We are at the mercy of tanker dealers for water and have to buy water at whatever rates they quote. The government has announced that they will provide water for free in our areas. It hasn't reached us," he said.

The price cap has had little effect on water tanker prices on the ground and enforcement has been almost nil, complain residents. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Mr. Khan said a tractor load of 4,000 litres of water cost ₹800 to ₹1,000.

The district administration has not issued specific rates for 4,000 litre loads, but has capped 6,000 litre loads at ₹750.

Meanwhile, the cost of 12,000 litre tanker load used by most apartments are being sold in the range of ₹2,000 and ₹2,500, even as the government has capped it at ₹1,200.

"There has been no correction in water tanker prices post the cap," said Rajesh H., a resident of an apartment community off Sarjapura Road.

Another resident of Whitefield said that water tanker suppliers are not only charging the price they want, but are also insisting that apartment communities enter into a contract of at least six months to get water now.

Price cap

	Till 5-km radius	5-10 km radius
6,000 litres	₹600	₹750
8,000 litres	₹700	₹850
12,000 litres	₹1,000	₹1,200

*₹50 for every 1,000 litres between 8,000 and 12,000 litres

Price card offered*

Source - destination distance	For every 1,000 litres
0 - 2 km	₹125
2 - 5 km	₹150
5 - 7.5 km	₹175
7.5 - 10 km	₹200
10 - 12.5 km	₹225

* By Mahadevapura chapter of Bengaluru East Water Tankers' Association

"The price cap has been on paper and there is no way to enforce that. If one wants water, one has to accept the terms put forth by tanker suppliers and that is the ground reality," he said.

Cap rejected

Most of the water tanker dealers in the city have rejected the price cap put by the district administration, even as many argue the price cap was dead on arrival and did not apply to them at all.

"The district administration has put a price cap for tanker loads where the distance between the source of water and the destination is less than 10 km. But most of us routinely go beyond 15 km and in some cases even beyond 20 km one way to fetch water. So the price cap does not even apply to us," said Ramesh Reddy, a water tanker dealer in Marathahalli. The Mahadevapura chapter of the Bengaluru East Water Tankers' Association, with nearly 300 water tankers attached to it, held a meeting and came out with their own price card.

"For every 1,000 litres, we have decided to charge ₹125 if the distance between the source and the destination is below two km, ₹150 if the distance is between two and five km, and go on adding ₹25 for every two-and-a-half additional km," said R.V.N. Babu, president of the association.

As per this, the cost of 12,000 litres of water if sourced from 12 km away, which Mr. Babu said was very common, is ₹2,400.

'Divorced from reality'

When asked whether this was not a violation of the price cap imposed by the district administration, Mr. Babu said the basis for that was "unscientific" and "divorced from ground reality".

"Probably they have only surveyed areas where one gets water at 200 feet. Here in our areas we have to dig more than 1,500 feet, which increases both capital and operational expenditure. Moreover these are far off from where our customers stay," he said, adding the association was being reasonable and imposing a price card on their members, not allowing them to exploit the situation.

BWSSB chairman V. Ramprasath Manohar said that the board will soon paste stickers of the prices fixed by the district administration on water tankers to create awareness among the public.

"It is a new system and will take some time for both the people and the tanker suppliers to get used to it," he said.

Suction pumps being used to draw water from pipelines illegally

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

Among various other woes, those living in residential areas of Bengaluru are grappling with the problem of illegal suction pumps attached to pipelines of the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB).

According to some residents, many houses and commercial establishments located on arterial roads use suction pumps to draw more water, which results in very little or no water reaching the remaining residents.

Sharath Babu, a resident of Rajajinagar, alleged that the tanks in his home had become dry. "Not just my house, but all the houses in my lane are suffering because people who own property on arterial roads are using suction pumps," he alleged. Mr. Babu said that the closure of the vigilance wing in BWSSB has allowed such activities to go on unchecked.

A residential water tank being filled in Bengaluru.

In an email to Ram Prasath Manohar, Chairman, BWSSB, Mr. Babu alleged that the Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) has expressed his helplessness when it comes to this matter.

H.E. Chandrashekar, secretary of the Federation of HSR Layout Residents' Welfare Association, also approached the BWSSB Chairman with a similar complaint. "As many people are installing suction pumps, residents living in high ridge areas are not getting any Cauvery water through BWSSB pipes," he said.

He explained why many people are resorting to such illegal measures, "It is because there is no water pressure in the pipes. If BWSSB maintains the regular water pressure, then everyone, including those living in high ridge areas, will get adequate water."

He also said that filling and supplying water from a tank built on the 31st main road in their locality, which has been empty for 20 years, could help the layout in such an hour of crisis.

A tenant, who lives in HSR Layout 6th phase, said, "There is no way to get Cauvery water if not for these suction pumps. Everyone in my area, including my landlord, uses suction pumps. We get Cauvery water only once a week. Due to decreased pressure, we will hardly get anything for our houses without suction pumps."

BWSSB will be taking action against use of suction pumps, Mr. Manohar told *The Hindu*. "The water pressure in pipes has decreased due to people tampering with the system by using suction pumps. From March 15, we will take action and remove such pumps while also penalising the guilty persons," he said.

BWSSB to take a call on IPL matches soon

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) will meet with organisers of the IPL to decide on the fate of the matches amidst the water crisis in the city, said V. Ramprasath Manohar, chairman, BWSSB.

Responding to media queries on whether the matches will be cancelled, he said a decision would be taken after meeting the stakeholders.

The city is scheduled to host three IPL matches on March 25, 29, and April 2. Though water from the sewage treatment plant (STP) unit within the premises of the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium is used for the upkeep of the turf, there is a precedent for the shifting of matches.

In 2016, the Bombay High Court had ordered that close to a dozen games be moved out of Maharashtra owing to drought.

From 100 ft to 1,800 ft: Story of depleting groundwater level

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

When there were many lakes in Bengaluru, drilling to 100 feet would result in striking water, but now it has gone down to 1,800 feet and there is still no water, said T.V. Ramachandra from IISc.'s Energy and Wetlands Research group.

Speaking at a press conference to discuss the future of the Aghanashini Wetlands, he said: "My studies show when lakes were there (in large numbers) people were getting water at 100 feet. When we removed the lakes in the name of development in the five or six years it went down to 600 feet. Today they have gone down to 1,800 feet and there is no water."

He added that Bengaluru's green cover has been depleting over the years and that there has been a loss of wetlands and vegetation cover. "I have mapped the Bengaluru urban information system. There was 68% green cover in the 1970s but today 86% is red (buildings). We are losing wetlands. There has been a 1,055% increase in concrete area over five decades," he said.

Expert says that even when you drill down to 1,800 ft there is still no water. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

He added that there has also been 18% loss in vegetation cover and 79% loss of waterbodies.

"Today you don't have water in your wells. Around 45% of Bengalururans depend on groundwater. We have removed the forest cover in the Cauvery basin and today it is less than 18% and rainfall has changed in the Cauvery basin area," he said. He added that the city should have Bengaluru Lake Information System (BLISS)

"We have monitored all the 193 lakes in Bengaluru. We have put all the data: physical, chemical biological parameters as well as the encroachment. We have also mapped the extent of encroachment. The only thing we have not put out is who has encroached," he said.

Road rage, parking issues among anxiety triggers for car owners

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A survey of car owners conducted by Park+, a private app that facilitates parking solutions, has found road rage, car parking and FASTag deactivation as the main triggers of anxiety among car owners in Bengaluru.

The survey included responses by 22,000 Bengaluru car owners and was undertaken to understand anxiety triggers for car owners driving on city roads.

Bengaluru recently surpassed Delhi to have the most private cars in any city in the country.

The survey revealed that 57% of car owners have experienced some sort of road rage in the last six months, while 63% struggle to find a legal and safe parking spot, and 22% expressed anxiety over the deactivation of their FASTag over failure to update Know Your Customer (KYC) details.

Road rage emerged as the foremost trigger for anxiety amongst car owners.

Stress index

Total sample 22,000

- 57% of car owners in Bengaluru have experienced some sort of road rage in the last 6 months
- 63% of car owners struggle to find a legal & safe parking spot for their cars in Bengaluru
- 22% expressed anxiety over the deactivation of their FASTag

The main causes of road rage are frequent traffic jams, congested roads, inadequate infrastructure, two-wheelers swerving between cars and buses, disregard for traffic laws, and aggressive driving behaviour, such as honking, tailgating and cutting off other vehicles.

These factors contribute to the overall stress and anxiety experienced by car owners while navigating Bengaluru's roads, the survey found.

The survey also found parking continues to be a major concern for car owners, with limited parking spaces leading to frustration and anxiety.

Additionally, the lack of proper enforcement of parking rules exacerbates the problem, causing further stress for drivers in the city.

Furthermore, the lack of designated legal parking areas in busy commercial areas adds to the chaos and congestion on the roads.

This combination of factors contributes to the daily traffic gridlock that plagues Bengaluru, making commuting a nightmare for car owners, the survey said.

The current flux seen in the FASTag ecosystem, renewed KYC deadline and FASTag deactivations, has led to some confusion amongst car owners.

Sensitisation event on quality control orders held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bureau of Indian Standards, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India, along with CII Institute of Quality (CII-IQ), Bangalore, organized a seminar on "The Sensitization Programme on Quality Control Orders (QCOs)", to enhance awareness among industry professionals and offer practical insights and guidance on the requirements of various QCOs, both upcoming and previously released, specifically for the Textile, Utensils, and Fasteners industry sectors. Tuesday (March 12) at CII-IQ's office, Bengaluru.

According to a release from BIS, professionals and stakeholders involved in the textile, utensils and fasteners industries, manufacturers, exporters, importers, and industry representatives, quality assurance and compliance professionals attended the seminar.

Autorickshaw unions demand welfare board for drivers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following the Karnataka government's decision to prohibit electric bike taxi services, unions representing autorickshaw drivers are now pressing the government to establish a welfare board specifically for autorickshaw drivers.

Earlier, the auto drivers presented their request to Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy for the establishment of a welfare board. According to the auto drivers, this board will significantly help them address their grievances.

Autorickshaw driver's unions have sought the government's assistance to phase out old auto rickshaws and offer owners a loan facility to purchase new vehicles.

Additionally, they highlight concerns regarding the indiscriminate issuance of permits, which results in unhealthy competition among drivers. The union urges the government to fulfil its promise of a special package and implement it accordingly. "Indiscriminate issuance of permits for new autorickshaws is a big concern," said Rudramurthy, the general secretary of the Auto Rickshaw Drivers' Union. "We insist that measures be taken to phase out old autorickshaws, offering a loan facility to owners for acquiring new vehicles," he added.

The unions have highlighted concerns regarding the indiscriminate issuance of permits, which results in unhealthy competition among drivers. FILE PHOTO

C.N. Srinivas of the Auto Rickshaw Drivers' Union said, "We intend to soon meet Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to advocate for and persuade him on the necessity of establishing a welfare board for auto rickshaw drivers. The creation of such a board would be immensely beneficial for auto drivers and owners."

The Karnataka Legislative Assembly passed the Karnataka Motor Transport and Other Allied Workers' Social Security and Welfare Bill, 2024, on February 29. This bill provides social security and other benefits to motor vehicle drivers, conductors, cleaners, supervisors, station staff, line-checking staff, booking clerks, cash clerks, depot clerks, timekeepers, watchmen/attenders, and other unorganised workers engaged in motor transport.

The Bill aims to provide welfare measures to those working in garages, tyre retreading and resoling units, puncture shops, wheel balancing and alignment units, and water washing units. The facilities provided would be similar to those provided for construction workers now.

AlphaGeometry and the threat of AI's takeover of mathematics

Google's machine was able to solve 25 out of 30 Olympiad-level geometry problems and could also write human-readable proofs and draw diagrams to explain a proof. According to a U.S. Mathematical Olympiad coach, this performance exceeds that of an average silver medallist

Mohan R.

AlphaGeometry stands apart because of its 'Deductive Database' — a method that significantly reduces the number of steps in a proof.
GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

A few weeks ago, an animated discussion unfolded in a WhatsApp group whose members are mathematicians interested in the Indian Mathematical Olympiad. The spark was a *Nature* paper that announced a Google DeepMind artificial intelligence (AI) named AlphaGeometry had achieved a milestone: it could solve geometry problems at the level of the International Mathematical Olympiad, nearly matching the prowess of gold medallists.

The news evoked a mix of awe, fear, and wonder among us, especially in light of how AI tools like ChatGPT have started to reshape education. Some mathematicians wondered if the advent of AlphaGeometry signals the start of AI's ascendancy in mathematics.

Is this truly the beginning of an AI takeover in mathematics? To answer this question, let's take a look at the inner workings of AlphaGeometry.

How does mathematical logic work?

The *Nature* paper was coauthored by two computer scientists at New York University and two DeepMind researchers. AlphaGeometry is one of DeepMind's array of AI systems – perhaps the most popular of which is AlphaZero, a deep-learning algorithm that excels at playing chess. Programs like these are part of researchers' efforts to work up a ladder of complexity, building tools that can perform more complex tasks with better reliably.

The AlphaGeometry team has published supplementary information describing the proofs generated by AlphaGeometry for some geometry problems, showcasing its ability to create hundreds of logical steps in proof construction.

Let's start with a simple example from school mathematics. Suppose we only know that for any number a, $a + 0 = a$. From this, we will be able to prove that for any number $a \times 0 = 0$. How? If $a + 0 = 0$ for any number a, then we should have $0 + 0 = 0$. Thus $a \times 0$ can be written as $a \times (0 + 0)$, which is the same as $a \times 0 + a \times 0$. So we have the equality $a \times 0 = (a \times 0) + (a \times 0)$. Cancelling $a \times 0$ on both sides of the equation, we can conclude that $a \times 0 = 0$.

Here, the entire proof is simply derived from the hypothesis using the rules of logic. Many computer programs can execute such a process but AlphaGeometry stands apart because of its 'Deductive Database' – a method that significantly reduces the number of steps in a proof.

What is 'Deductive Database'?

Suppose we are given a statement A, and we want to deduce the statement Z. The program can spit out all possible next steps – let's call them B – that can be deduced from A using the rules of logic. Then it will spit out all possible next steps C that can be deduced from B, and so on. If there are only finitely many steps possible, then it should reach the conclusion Z at some point. But once it reaches Z, it will perform a 'traceback' process to find the proof that takes the minimum number of steps.

So much for arithmetic and logic; geometry requires something more. In geometry, we use algebraic relations between different kinds of measures to find new relations. For example, we will have used simple techniques in school geometry called 'angle chasing', 'ratio chasing' and 'distance chasing'.

To illustrate the meaning of these ideas, let us take an example from school geometry. Let a, b, and c be three lines on a plane. If we know the angle between a and b and the angle between b and c, we can immediately determine the angle between a and c (see figure 1). This is an example of 'angle chasing'. Similarly, AlphaGeometry can quickly discover all possible algebraic relationships between some given quantities using its 'Algebraic Rules' program.

When it combines its 'Deductive Database' and 'Algebraic Rules' programs, AlphaGeometry can write complete proofs for most school-level geometry problems.

For example, let A, B, C, and D be any four points on a plane (see figure 2). Suppose by angle chasing we know that the angle between the lines AB and BD is equal to the angle between the lines AC and CD.

Then 'Deductive Database' can immediately figure out all the four points lie on a circle while 'Algebraic Rules' can determine that the angle between the lines BC and CA is equal to the angle between the lines BD and DA.

What are auxiliary constructions?

The combination of these two programs makes AlphaGeometry a very powerful tool. The AlphaGeometry team could solve 14 of the 30 geometry problems in the International Mathematical Olympiad in this way.

This achievement also reveals that a significant amount of difficulty in these problems was not in terms of the ingenuity required to solve them but in the ability to deduce the most number of relations – and computers are better at this than humans.

Fortunately, this ability is not sufficient to prove all problems in geometry, but AlphaGeometry seems to have summited this peak as well.

Mathematics is really a creative field because mathematicians often come up with clever constructions to solve a problem. Their name for such a construction is an auxiliary construction. Auxiliary constructions are not part of what is 'given' to us nor what we want to prove, and also illustrate what makes automatic theorem proving difficult. There are infinite ways to build constructions, and human intelligence is required to judge which one to choose for a given problem and how to use it.

> The success of this project will certainly lead to the development of AI programs that can efficiently do mathematics at least at the school level

There is a classic example: some 2,000 years ago, Euclid proved that there are infinitely many prime numbers. His proof goes as follows: suppose there are only finitely many primes numbers, say $p_1, p_2, \ldots, p_n$. Take the product of all these primes and add 1 to the product. Let's call this new number p. That is, $p = p_1 p_2 \ldots p_n + 1$. The question now is whether p is a prime.

If p is a prime, and since p is bigger than all the other primes, we have a new prime. However, this shouldn't be possible because we assumed originally that there is only a finite number of primes. If p is not a prime, we will be forced to conclude that one of the primes should divide 1, which is absurd. In sum, assuming there is a number of primes leads us to absurdity, which means there have to be infinitely many primes.

The auxiliary construction in this proof is constructing the number p.

There are no particular restrictions for how we can come up with different constructions, and thus different ways to solve the problem. They simply require experience and deep insight.

What is the significance?

Invariably, most geometry proofs require auxiliary constructions. Large language models like GPT-4, which is behind ChatGPT, can be taught to come up with possible constructions. One can train them to use rule-sets from different fields to build auxiliary constructions and use them to write proofs. However, there is no guarantee that the new constructions they devise will be able to lead to new proofs.

But when the AlphaGeometry team combined GPT-4 with 'Deductive Database' and 'Algebraic Rules', the program could produce auxiliary constructions for geometry problems, with no prior human demonstration. This is a new development in the field, and in this sense, AlphaGeometry seems like a big step towards AI's takeover of mathematics, which has thus far been a very human enterprise.

In all, AlphaGeometry could solve 11 more Olympiad geometry problems, bringing its tally to 25 out of 30 problems. It is also commendable that AlphaGeometry can write human-readable proofs and can draw diagrams to explain a proof. Once it did so, the team asked a coach of the U.S. Mathematical Olympiad to evaluate the proofs and grade them. The result: AlphaGeometry performed better than an average silver medallist.

The architecture developed for AlphaGeometry may not have been able to solve the other Olympiad problems, but the techniques it developed are directly useful to solve problems from other areas of mathematics. The success of this project will certainly lead to the development of AI programs that can efficiently do mathematics at least at the school level.

(Mohan R. is a mathematician at Azim Premji University, Bengaluru.)

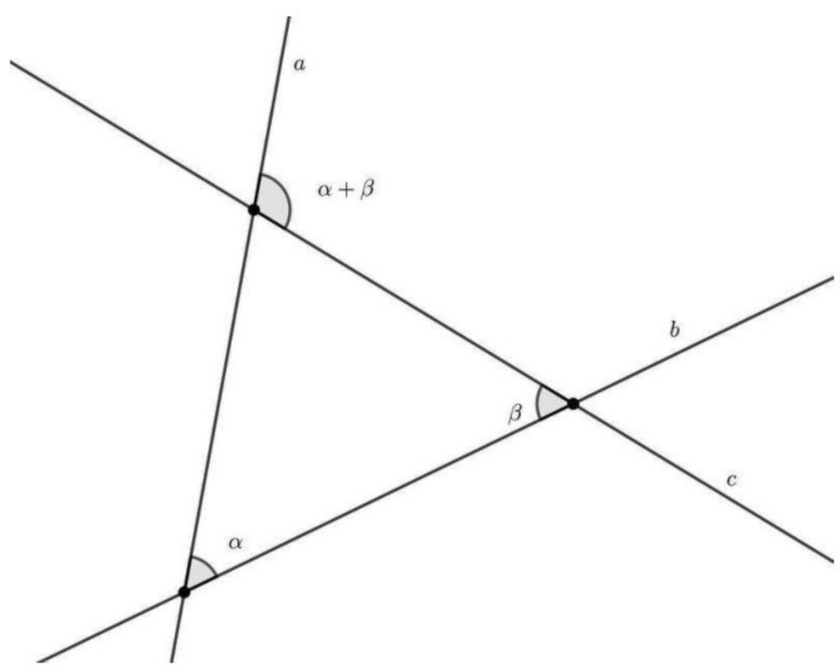


Figure 1. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

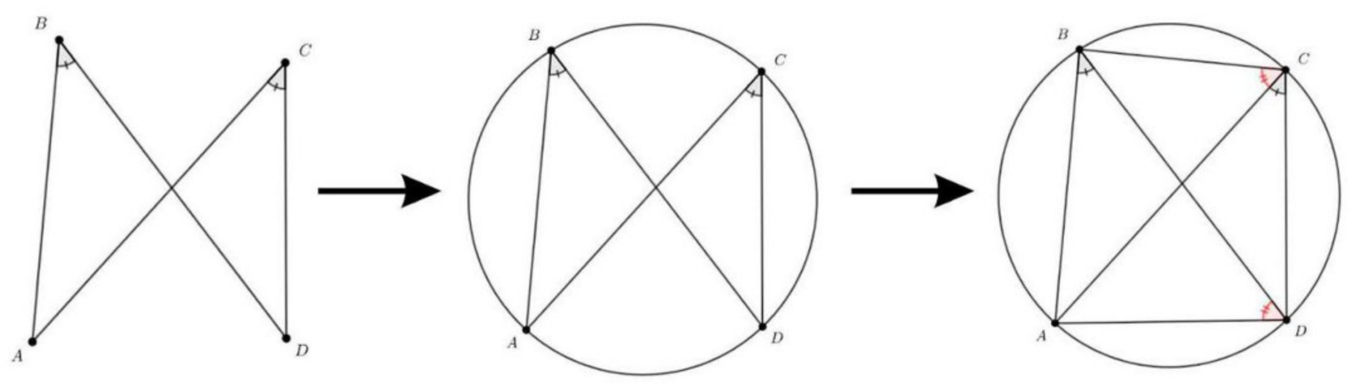
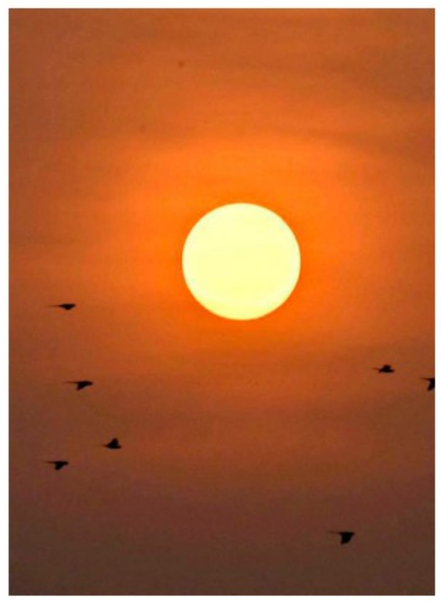


Figure 2. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Solar photo voltaics have inherent limitations which are the subject of research. FILE PHOTO

Overcoming theoretical limits on solar cell capacity

Priyali Prakash

In photovoltaics - i.e. the study of conversion of light energy into electrical energy – the Shockley-Queisser limit is a theoretical concept that defines the maximum capacity of a solar cell to produce electricity.

The Sun is the primary source of light and energy on the earth. Photovoltaic devices like solar cells allow us to harness this energy. Photovoltaic cells are made of semiconducting materials like (doped) silicon. When sunlight interacts with a semiconductor, it excites electrons from the lower-energy valence band to the higher-energy conduction band.

This transition leaves behind a vacancy in the valence band called a hole. (To be more precise, a hole is a vacant site where an electron is supposed to be. Since it denotes the absence of an electron, a hole is also a place with positive charge.)

The process of an electron moving to the conduction band and leaving a hole behind in the valence band creates an electron-hole pair. These pairs are the fundamental charge carriers in semiconductors and play a crucial role in the operation of electronic devices.

> **Researchers have been trying to surpass the Shockley-Queisser limit and use more solar energy, and thus improve the cells' efficiency, but this has been easier said than done**

In short, electron-hole pairs create the photocurrent – an electric current created as a result of radiation – in the semiconductor.

We know that the efficiency with which a solar cell can produce an electric current when sunlight is incident on it can't be 100% because some light particles (photons) pass through the material without interacting with it (i.e. transparency loss, around 25%) and some energy simply heats up the material without exciting the electrons (thermalisation, around 30%). As a result, the maximum efficiency of a conventional solar cell is confined, and this range is called the Shockley-Queisser limit. It is named after the physicists William Shockley (of the U.S.) and Hans-Joachim Queisser (Germany).

These days, a solar cell can convert only a third of the incident solar energy into electric energy. The semiconductor can't make use of photons with less energy than that required by electrons to jump across the band gap. Similarly, photons carrying significantly more energy than the size of the band gap only heat the device.

Researchers have been trying to find ways to surpass the Shockley-Queisser limit and use more solar energy, and thus improve the cells' efficiency, but this has been easier said than done.

South Korean physicist Young Hee Lee has said carrier multiplication and hot carrier extraction are two promising pathways. In the former, a cell allows a photon to create multiple electron-hole pairs. The latter aims to quickly capture photons with 'too much' energy before they dissipate as heat.

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ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ (KKRDB), ಕಲಬುರಗಿ

ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ.ಕೆ. ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ. ಸುಧಾಕರ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಚಿವರು, ಯೋಜನೆ, ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಯೋಜನೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಂಖ್ಯಿಕ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

2024-25ರ ಬಜೆಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ
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ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ನಡೆ - ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯ ಕಡೆ

ವಿಶೇಷ ಆವಿಷ್ಕಾರಗಳ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನ

ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಆವಿಷ್ಕಾರ
ಉತ್ತಮ ಆರೋಗ್ಯದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಉತ್ತಮ ಸಮಾಜ

'ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಆವಿಷ್ಕಾರ' ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದಡಿ **ಸುಮಾರು ₹300 ಕೋಟಿ** ಅನುದಾನ ಮೀಸಲು

- **33 ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳ** ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ
- ನೂತನ **50 ಆಂಬ್ಯುಲೆನ್ಸ್** ಗಳ ಸೇವೆ
- ಕಲಬುರಗಿ ನಗರದಲ್ಲಿ **'ಜಯದೇವ ಹೃದ್ರೋಗ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ'** ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ
- ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಸುರಕ್ಷಿತ ಋತುಚಕ್ರ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗೆ **'ಮೈತ್ರಿ'** - ಮುಟ್ಟಿನ ಕಪ್ ಯೋಜನೆ

ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಆವಿಷ್ಕಾರ
ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಯುವ ಜನತೆಯ ಉಜ್ವಲ ಭವಿಷ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಾಕಾರ

'ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಆವಿಷ್ಕಾರ' ಕ್ಕಾಗಿ **₹10 ಕೋಟಿ** ಅನುದಾನ ಮೀಸಲು

- ಸುಮಾರು **25,000 ಯುವಕ, ಯುವತಿಯರಿಗೆ** ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ತರಬೇತಿ ನೀಡಲಾಗುವುದು
- **ಕಲಿಕೆ ಜೊತೆ ಕೌಶಲ್ಯ** – ಪದವಿಯ ಕೊನೆಯ ವರ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗ ಮಾಡುವ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕೌಶಲ್ಯ ತರಬೇತಿ ಕೋರ್ಸ್
- **ಉದ್ಯಮಶೀಲತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ** – ಉದ್ಯೋಗಾಂಕ್ಷಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಉತ್ತಮ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಪಡೆಯಲು 30 ದಿನಗಳ ತರಬೇತಿ

ಅಕ್ಷರ ಆವಿಷ್ಕಾರ
ಸಮಗ್ರ ಶಾಲಾ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ

₹652.5 ಕೋಟಿ ಮೊತ್ತದ ಕ್ರಿಯಾ ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಚಾಲನೆ

- ಮಂಡಳಿಯ ಒಟ್ಟಾರೆ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ **ಶೇ 25 ರಷ್ಟು ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನು 'ಅಕ್ಷರ ಆವಿಷ್ಕಾರ'** ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಮೀಸಲು
- 2023-24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಮಾರು **2,000 ಮಾದರಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳು** 'ಅಕ್ಷರ ಆವಿಷ್ಕಾರ' ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಯ್ಕೆ

ಆಡಳಿತ ಸೌಧ (ಮಿನಿ ವಿಧಾನ ಸೌಧ)

ಸುಮಾರು **₹135 ಕೋಟಿ** ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ, **9 ಆಡಳಿತ ಸೌಧ (ಮಿನಿ ವಿಧಾನ ಸೌಧ)**ಗಳ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. ಕ.ಕ.ಪ್ರ.ಅ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಮತ್ತು ಕಂದಾಯ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಅನುದಾನಗಳ ಬಳಕೆ.

ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಂಡಳಿಯ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರಾದ **ಡಾ|| ಅಜಯ್ ಧರ್ಮಸಿಂಗ್** ಅವರು ಮಾಧ್ಯಮವನ್ನು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಿ ಮಾತನಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವುದು

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of electoral bonds purchased since its inception

22,217 SBI informed the Supreme Court that out of all the bonds purchased by parties between April 1, 2019, and February 15, 2024, 22,030 were redeemed. PTI

The fall in vegetable oil imports in the month of February

13 in percentage. India's vegetable oil (comprising edible oils and non-edible oils) imports fell year-on-year in February to nearly 9.75 lakh tonnes, according to data from the Solvent Extractors' Association of India. PTI

Worth of weapons to be sent to Ukraine by the U.S.

300 in $ million. Pentagon will send weapons to Ukraine after finding some cost savings in its contracts, even though the military remains deeply overdrawn, the White House said. AP

The writers who won the Sahitya Akademi Award for 2023

24 The awards coincided with the 70th anniversary celebrations of the National Academy of Letters at the 'Sahityotsav'. Awards were given to authors including English author Neelum Saran Gaur. PTI

Number of Indians arrested for illegally working in Sri Lanka

21 Sri Lankan authorities arrested Indian nationals aged 24 to 25 for illegally operating an online marketing centre in the country, breaching relaxed tourist visa norms. PTI

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On judges and bureaucrats joining politics

What are the restrictions on judges and senior government officials with respect to their employment when it comes to other posts within the government or in the private sphere? Can a former judge join a political party and contest elections?

EXPLAINER

Rangarajan. R

The story so far:

Recently a Calcutta High Court judge and a senior IPS officer in West Bengal resigned from their posts and joined political parties. This has once again raised questions of propriety about independent constitutional authorities and other senior government officials joining political parties after demitting office.

What are constitutional restrictions?

The Constitution works on the principle of checks and balance between various organs. The executive is accountable to the legislature. An independent judiciary keeps a check on both these branches of the State. There are also other independent bodies like the Election Commission, Public Service Commission, Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) who are required to perform their constitutional duties without any interference from the government. The independence of these institutions is ensured through guaranteeing fixed tenure, financial independence, stringent removal procedure and restrictions after demitting office. A judge of a Supreme Court after ceasing to hold office cannot appear as a lawyer before any court or authority in India. A judge of a High Court has similar restrictions except for appearance before the Supreme Court or other High Courts. The CAG and the chairman/members of the Public Service Commission cannot take up any other employment with Central or State governments after demitting office. These restrictions are laid down to avoid favouritism, during the period of holding such positions, towards the government in power with an intent of securing any post-retirement benefit.

What about political posts?

There are no restrictions when it comes to joining political parties, contesting elections or being nominated to certain posts. There are notable instances of persons who held independent constitutional posts and later went on to join politics or were nominated to various posts. There have been two Supreme Court judges in 1967 and 1983, who resigned from their posts to contest the presidential and parliamentary elections from Assam, respectively. Another Supreme Court judge joined a political party in Tamil Nadu and contested elections five years after his retirement in 1999. A former Chief Election Commissioner became a Rajya Sabha member and Minister in 2004, three years after his retirement. Recently, a retired Chief Justice of India was nominated to the Rajya Sabha in 2020 within four months of his retirement.

Necessary safegaurds: Former Calcutta High Court judge Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay joins the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Kolkata on March 7. ANI

There have also been occasions where retired CAG and judges have been appointed as Governors of States. Numerous bureaucrats have also joined political parties and contested elections after resigning from service or soon after their retirement.

What are the recommendations?

The Election Commission had in 2012 recommended to the Union government to provide for a cooling-off period for top bureaucrats after their retirement before they could join political parties and contest elections. However, the Government had rejected this recommendation based on the opinion of the Attorney General that this may not be in line with constitutional provisions and democratic values. The Supreme Court had dismissed a writ petition in May 2022 that sought a direction from the top court to the legislature to frame a law imposing a cooling-off period for retired bureaucrats before joining politics. The court observed that it is for the legislature to determine whether a cooling-off period is required for bureaucrats before they join politics after retirement.

Is a cooling-off period desirable?

One of the essential features of a democracy is every citizen's right to contest elections. The Attorney General while providing his opinion against the 2012 recommendation of Election Commission had said that maintenance of independence and neutrality will be relevant during the period a person is in service. There are rules at present which restrict a senior bureaucrat from joining a private job for at least one year after he or she retires from government service. The Attorney General had opined that such restriction for commercial employment is based on intelligible differentia to avoid conflicts of interest. However, such a restriction against officials contesting polls may not be a valid classification and would not be in harmony with democratic principles in the Constitution.

While the opinion of Attorney General is based on sound legal principle, it is equally imperative to remember the famous judicial quote that 'justice should not only be done but should also be seen to be done'. This applies equally to judges, independent constitutional authorities and senior bureaucrats. It is an indispensable trait while discharging their official functions. Extending this principle even after they demit office will have a salutary effect. This may be achieved by prescribing a cooling-off period of say at least two years for joining political parties or being nominated to political posts by the government. This will instil confidence in the public at large and negate any allegation of quid pro quo.

Rangarajan. R is a former IAS officer and author of 'Polity Simplified'. He trains civil-service aspirants at 'Officers IAS Academy'. Views expressed are personal.

THE GIST

- A judge of a Supreme Court after ceasing to hold office cannot appear as a lawyer before any court or authority in India. The CAG and the chairman/members of the Public Service Commission cannot take up any other employment with Central or State governments after demitting office.
- There are no restrictions when it comes to joining political parties, contesting elections or being nominated to certain posts.
- The Election Commission had in 2012 recommended to the Union government to provide for a cooling-off period for top bureaucrats after their retirement before they could join political parties and contest elections.

How did Indians end up in the Russia-Ukraine war?

What did the CBI uncover with respect to the illegal recruitment of Indian youth to the Russian military?

Sumeda

The story so far:

The deaths of two Indian nationals in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war and the recent raids by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) which uncovered a human trafficking network recruiting Indians as "security helpers" and other personnel for the Russian military have sparked widespread concern. This has highlighted the plight of dozens of Indians stuck on the frontlines of the Russia-Ukraine war after they were deceived into working with the Russian military under false pretences.

What happened?

The presence of Indians in combat roles on the Russian side, first surfaced in February this year. In a series of reports, *The Hindu* brought attention to the situation, stating that some Indian nationals, initially hired as "army security helpers," were compelled to fight against their will after their passports and documents were seized.

One of the men, a resident of Uttar Pradesh, told the daily that he went to Russia with the help of an agent in November last year after he was assured that there would be no deployment in the war zone. However, he was sent to the frontline in January after some basic training in handling weapons. "We were categorically told that we would not be sent to the battlefield and promised ₹1.95 lakh salary and ₹50,000 additional bonus per month. Except for the ₹50,000 bonus for two months, I have not received any money," he said. The U.P. resident claimed that he tried to contact the Indian Embassy in Moscow but all his pleas went in vain. In the subsequent days, more Indian citizens and their families came forward to seek the government's intervention. A group of seven Indians from Punjab and Haryana released a set of videos, claiming that they arrived in Russia on tourist visas but were forced to join the Russian Army as "helpers" after being detained.

An Indian-origin Russian official associated with the Russian Ministry of Defence told *The Hindu* that approximately 100 Indians were recruited at the Moscow recruitment centre in the past year. However, the actual number of Indians hired could be higher, since there are several recruitment centres across Russia. The official said all recruits had to sign a contract to join as "army security helpers." He added that the contract requires a minimum of one year of service and prohibits signees to leave or exit before six months of service.

How did the agents con people?

A multi-State human trafficking network busted by the CBI in a crackdown on visa recruiters in seven cities across India last week revealed how Indian youths were allegedly pushed into the war zone by consultancy firms on the pretext of a better life and livelihood with the Russian military as security guards and helpers, as well as higher education. So far, the probe agency has found 35 instances of people sent to Russia and listed at least 17 consultancy companies spread across India who were involved in the trafficking.

As per the CBI, the "organised network" lured Indian youth through social media and local agents, offering them highly paid jobs and lucrative employment opportunities in Russia. A number of students were reportedly tricked into enrolling in dubious private universities by agents promising low fees and visa extensions. Once the aspirants reached Russia, the local agents seized their passports and forced them to join the armed forces, the CBI said. At least two Indians with the Russian military have lost their lives in the fighting so far.

What has the government said?

The Indian government is in talks with the Russian authorities about the early release of Indian citizens who were duped into working with the Russian military. "We are doing our best to locate them. We are in touch with the Russian authorities so that they can be released and discharged early," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at a regular media briefing last week. "We remain committed to the early release of our nationals serving as support staff with the Russian Army and their eventual return home," the spokesperson added. Noting the findings of the CBI raids, the MEA appealed to Indian nationals not to be "swayed" by offers made by agents for support jobs with the Russian Army.

THE GIST

- The deaths of two Indian nationals in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war and the recent raids by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) which uncovered a human trafficking network recruiting Indians as "security helpers" and other personnel for the Russian military have sparked widespread concern.
- As per the CBI, the "organised network" lured Indian youth through social media and local agents, offering them paid jobs and lucrative employment opportunities in Russia.
- The Indian government is in talks with the Russian authorities about the early release of Indian citizens who were duped into working with the Russian military.

Deadline for implementation of Kannada signboard rule ends

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike has claimed the rule has already seen a 98% compliance; Karnataka Rakshana Vedike says it conducted a random sample survey in select areas and found several gaps in the implementation

A senior BBMP official said they are confident of ensuring 100% implementation within 15 days. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As the deadline for complying with the 60:40 rule for use of Kannada in signboards ended on Wednesday, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) claimed the rule has already seen a 98% implementation.

As per a survey conducted last December, the BBMP claimed to have identified 50,357 violations to the rule and of them, as of Tuesday evening 49,241 establishments had already changed their signboards and only 1,116 now remain. A senior BBMP official said they were confident of ensuring 100% implementation within 15 days.

It may be recalled that when the BBMP started to shut shops for non-compliance after the previous deadline of February 28, Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar orally announced the extension of the deadline by two weeks. According to the BBMP official there was no written order in this connection.

Surlarkar Vikas Kishor, BBMP Special Commissioner (Health), talking to *The Hindu*, said: "The file related to the implementation was sent to BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. I am awaiting for direction from Mr. Nath on further course of action."

B. Sannerappa, State general secretary, Karnataka Rakshana Vedike, which spearheaded the campaign in December 2023 that degenerated into vandalism on December 27 in the city, said the vedike had also conducted a random sample survey in select areas and found several gaps in the implementation of the rule, contrary to BBMP's claims.

He also said the implementation was not uniform across areas and there were several pockets where it was low.

"Many shops have covered the English name using plastic, cloth and pasted a sticker bearing a Kannada name. This is just a temporary arrangement. The BBMP should ensure that the shops install new signboards," he said.

However, he said the vedike had also observed several big brands had complied with the rule replacing their entire signboards. "Outside Bengaluru, many shops in Belagavi, Mangaluru, Uttara Kannada have not implemented the rules. The local municipal authorities should implement the rule strictly," he stressed.

Mohammad Nazim, vice-president, Commercial Street Shop Owners' Association, said that in Commercial Street about 90% of shopkeepers have complied with the law. "This 60:40 will become an issue as who determines which is 60 and which is 40. We are in Karnataka and we should respect the law of the State. But this should not be forced," he said.

Arun Kumar of Malleswaram Shop Owners' Association said in his area about 95% had already implemented the rule. A few shops have put up banners, while some have installed new boards. "The remaining 5% will comply with the law soon," he added.

Fact sheet

	Total violations	Notices issued	Complied	Pending
Bommanahalli	8,411	8,411	8,228	183
Dasarahalli	1,548	1,548	1,510	38
East	8,634	8,634	8,258	376
Mahadevapura	5,967	5,967	5,893	74
R.R. Nagar	6,537	6,537	6,432	105
South	5,982	5,982	5,925	57
West	7,113	7,113	7,005	108
Yelahanka	6,165	6,165	5,990	175
Total	**50,357**	**50,357**	**49,241**	**1,116**

Petitioners are opposing board exams due to vested interests: Govt.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government on Wednesday claimed before the High Court of Karnataka that litigating associations of certain private unaided schools are opposing the board exams for classes 5, 8, 9, and 11 owing to "vested interests" as many of their member-schools don't teach lessons from the State government-prescribed textbooks.

The associations are opposing the proposed uniform assessment as students, studying in certain schools run by the members of petitioners' associations, are not in a position to answer questions based on the prescribed textbooks, it was argued on behalf of the government.

Also, the government claimed that no student or parent from any school had challenged the uniform assessment method proposed by the government for these classes through the Karnataka State Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) as the new assessment is in their interest.

Submissions in this regard were made before a Division Bench comprising Justice K. Somashekar and Justice Rajesh Rai K. during the hearing of the appeal filed by the government.

Students during the first day of the board exams at a government high school in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

The appeal was filed against the March 6, 2024, judgement of a single judge, who had quashed the notification issued for conducting board exams through KSEAB. The single judge had held that such a major change in exam pattern could not have been introduced without framing rules as per the statutes.

However, the Division Bench on March 7 stayed the single judge's order and allowed the government to hold exams from March 11 by passing an interim order.

What SC said

But the Supreme Court on Tuesday set aside the Division Bench's interim order and asked it to hear the government's appeal on the merit.

The apex court had said that the Division Bench could not have allowed the exams by an interim order, as in two different verdicts in 2023 and 2024 single judges of the High Court have had declared as illegal the government's action of introducing board exam without framing the rules.

The Registered Unaided Private Schools' Management Association-Karnataka, Bengaluru and the Organisation for Unaided Recognised Schools, Bengaluru had questioned the government's October 2023 notifications for conducting uniform assessment for classes 5, 8, and 9 and annual exams for class 11 (first year pre-university) through the KSEAB. The single judge had allowed their petitions.

The Bench adjourned further hearing on the appeal till March 14.

E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the issue dated March 14, we have a story on Sriram Devatha's book Brandgaluru-Made in Bengaluru, in which he discusses four iconic brands that originated in the city. Amidst a thriving start-up culture in Bengaluru, a handful of legacy brands that took years to understand who their core customers were continue to thrive today.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (March 14, Thursday), the following articles are available:

- On judges and bureaucrats joining politics **bit.ly/judgesbureaucrats**
- AlphaGeometry and the threat of AI's takeover of mathematics **bit.ly/Aiandmaths**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Five Ministers appointed spokespersons of govt.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday appointed five Cabinet Ministers as government spokespersons to project the achievements of his administration.

The official note said Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, IT and RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge, Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre, and Labour Minister Santosh Lad have been appointed as government spokespersons.

New path

A signal-free eight-lane corridor and development works of the junction at Okalipuram in Bengaluru were inaugurated on Wednesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Licences distributed to 1,000 land surveyors in State

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minister for Revenue Krishna Byre Gowda on Wednesday distributed licenses to the newly-recruited 1,000 land surveyors in Karnataka. So far, the State has been facing a severe shortage of land surveyors which resulted in delay in the settlement of boundaries of revenue lands, forest lands, and lands of various families. Mr. Gowda also distributed laptops to village administrative officers at a function held at the State Secretariat.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, MAR. 14	
RISE 06:27	SET 18:30
RISE 09:26	SET 22:33
FRIDAY, MAR. 15	
RISE 06:27	SET 18:30
RISE 10:15	SET 23:33
SATURDAY, MAR. 16	
RISE 06:26	SET 18:30
RISE 11:08	SET 00:00

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	24
Mysuru	35	23
Bengaluru	34	22

Bengaluru Today
34°C A dry weather to continue. Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night also will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
35°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be warm and uneasy. Night will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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Karnataka Innovation Top Idea Grand Finale 2022-23 winning school teams yet to get cash prize and award certificate

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Students who participated in the Karnataka Innovation Prototyping Camp and Top Idea Grand Finale 2022-23 in Bengaluru.

Government school student teams who won the Karnataka Innovation Prototyping Camp and Top Idea Grand Finale 2022-23, held by Samagra Shikshana-Karnataka (SSK) in July 2023, have not received the prize amount and award certificate even after seven months.

"The grand finale award ceremony was held in Bengaluru on July 24, 2023. However, only award certificates were distributed to the winning teams, not cash prize. As soon as the ceremony was over, the organisers took back the certificates owing to some errors and they promised us that they would correct the errors and redistribute them. However, neither the award certificates nor the prize amount have been given so far," the winning student teams alleged.

The Karnataka Innovation Prototyping Camp and Top Idea Grand Finale was organised by 'Yuwaah' in collaboration with UNICEF, Skill India and SSK to inculcate the spirit of innovation and enhance creativity among schoolchildren. The competition consisted of demonstration of models invented by government school students and prototyping boot camp and grand finale.

A total of 32 teams from across the State participated in the grand finale with their new inventions. Prizes were announced for the top six ideas finally.

'Crops dryer' developed by the students of Government High School of Niluvagilu, Chikkamagaluru district won the first prize. The second prize was awarded to 'waste plastic low cost home' developed by the students of Government Higher Primary School, Devagalli, Mysuru, and the third prize was awarded to the 'vegetable grower' unit invented by the students of Government Higher Primary School, Belni village, Uttara Kannada district.

'Eco house' developed by students of Government Co-Junior College, Hunnur, Bagalkot district, 'fuel sensor' developed by students of Government PU Boys College (High school), Chitradurga district, and 'weed cutting machine' by students of Government Higher Primary School, Yaranal, Vijayapura district got consolation prizes.

"We made innovations for this competition with our own pocket money, participated in the grand finale and won the prize. As this is a State-level competition, the award certificate has more value. However, owing to the negligence of the organisers, there is no prize amount or award certificate," the students said.

The teacher of a prize-winning team said: "No specific amount for the cash prize for the winning teams was announced. However, they informed us that the winning teams will be given a cash prize. A letter was written to the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) in October to re-distribute the award certificates and cash prize to the winning teams. Recently the authorities got the bank details of the prize winning schools. However, the prize amount has not been given yet. As it is a UNICEF programme, it has been conducted in Southern Indian States, and the Tamil Nadu government has given up to ₹1 lakh cash prize and tabs. But according to the latest information from the department, ₹2,500 will be given to all winning teams in Karnataka."

SSK officials were not available for comment despite repeated attempts.

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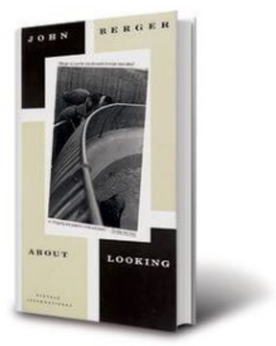
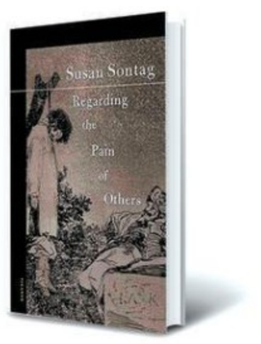




The cost of war: A woman mourns beside the body of a dead child, on February 4, in Rafah, Gaza. GETTY IMAGES

From the frontlines: what we see when we look at suffering

By witnessing photographs of the assault on Gaza, are citizens around the world marking themselves as unwitting participants in the disquieting intrusion? In the backdrop of violence, we revisit Susan Sontag's observations on photography

Jonathan Koshy Varghese

It has been a little over five months since Israel's assault on Gaza. To mark this dismal occasion, *The New York Times* unveiled a catalogue of images in early March 2024. The online gallery opens with a stark portrayal: Palestinian women grieving for their loved ones lost in Israeli airstrikes at the al-Najjar hospital in Rafah. The photograph zooms in on three anonymous women, their faces etched with anguish. In the frame's centre, a woman embraces two children, unaware of the camera's intrusion. The photographer appeared to have interrupted a moment of private grief. By looking at it, we too turn into voyeurs.

The *Times* arranges the photographs chronologically so that as we scroll down, we are guided through the different stages of human suffering since its unfolding in October 2023. It labels Palestinians and Israelis distinctly on their website, suggesting universal suffering. Photography aspires towards objectivity despite war's bias.

This was impossible, Susan Sontag argued. "War was and still is the most irresistible – and picturesque – news," she emphasised. Her acerbic words are difficult to overlook. It is an idea she expanded in her works, *On Photography* (1977) and *Regarding the Pain of Others* (2003).

Sontag's Image-World

We live in an age of images. We are seen, and sometimes we see. We are both observers and the observed, caught in the perpetual exchange of scrutiny. We have come a long way from Talbot's *Pencil of Nature* (1844) or Joseph Nicéphore Niépce's "heliography." We've taken a leap from Louis Daguerre's once revolutionary metal plates to Open AI's DALL-E. We make images just as they make us.

Indeed, in making such progress, we have had to confront our role concerning the technologies of image-making. What makes images human? Is a photograph different from other forms of visual images? John Berger, the renowned art critic and historian, seemed to think so.

In his discerning ode to photography, *About Looking* (1991), Berger asserted that, unlike other forms of visual images, a photograph was not an interpretation or an imitation of its subject but rather a trace of it. While the human eye and camera both "registered" an image, a camera did what the human eye could not. It "fixed" the appearance of the event. It froze time. Berger's words are a discerning annotation to Susan Sontag's celebrated *On Photography* (1977). Unlike Berger, Sontag is dramatic in her assessment. "Reality has always been interpreted through the reports given by images," she asserted on an occasion.

A photograph had little power to summon the past, they insist. Marcel Proust, the author of the monumental *In Search of Lost Time* (1913-27), was distinctively unimpressed by its influence. The photographic process, its output, and the voluntary deliberateness of the past thus evoked seemed shallow to him. Berger reminds us that while Proust's judgment may seem harsh, it is inevitable. Before the advent of the camera, humans had no means of capturing appearances. The faculty of memory came close. Despite this, Berger clarifies, "unlike memory, photographs do not in themselves preserve meaning. They offer appearances –"

Indeed, even as a photograph preserves appearances, it does not narrate. It freezes time without explaining it. To Berger, the camera transformed modern perception itself. The camera atomised the world, making it manageable. The taking of the photograph was no longer a ritual but a reflex. Reality was no longer inscrutable. Veracity became a function of the apparent. We've all faced moments of helplessness as images commandeer our reality. Photographs have transformed us into consumers of events, of appearances. Images have given rise to what Sontag dubs the Image-World. In this system, unlike other technologies of image-making, the role of the image-maker is rendered negligible. In choosing to photograph, the photographer may assert his own role in the registering of reality. Yet, the end result– the photograph and its correlation to reality– is mediated by chemical processes in a laboratory. The earliest photographer manipulated light. Now, the manipulation is facilitated by the keypad.

Looking at, Looking away

Sontag directs our attention to a crucial aspect concerning the photograph: its ability to depersonalise our connection to reality. She observes that we've devolved into bystanders, voraciously devouring an unrelenting blitz of images depicting violence and suffering. And we remain insatiable.

In her subsequent book-length essay, *Regarding the Pain of Others* (2003), Sontag focuses on the consumers of images. Photographs of the sufferings of others are as seductive to the photographers as it is to us. We look at photographs in a gallery, book, or website. We are stimulated, moved, perhaps shocked. However, just as a visit to the gallery must eventually end, a book must be shut, and websites must inevitably be closed. Even the strongest emotions are transient, Sontag reminds us.

Do we then cease to look? Sontag seems to think otherwise. The impulse to look is rooted in the privilege to look away. If, however, we persist, the structures of violence reveal themselves.

The photographs on the *Times's* website are particularly revealing in this regard. The Palestinians suffer, endure, and die, but the Israelis are privileged to a dignified burial. Palestinians are traced amidst sand and concrete rubble while the Israeli war machine is meticulous. The Palestinian is barely named, while the Israeli is memorialised.

Jonathan Koshy Varghese teaches Literature at Lady Shri Ram College.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Pi Day is observed on March 14 every year. A quiz on the mathematical constant

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1
Let's start with a simple one. Why is March 14 observed as Pi Day?

QUESTION 2
Who founded this day and in which year?

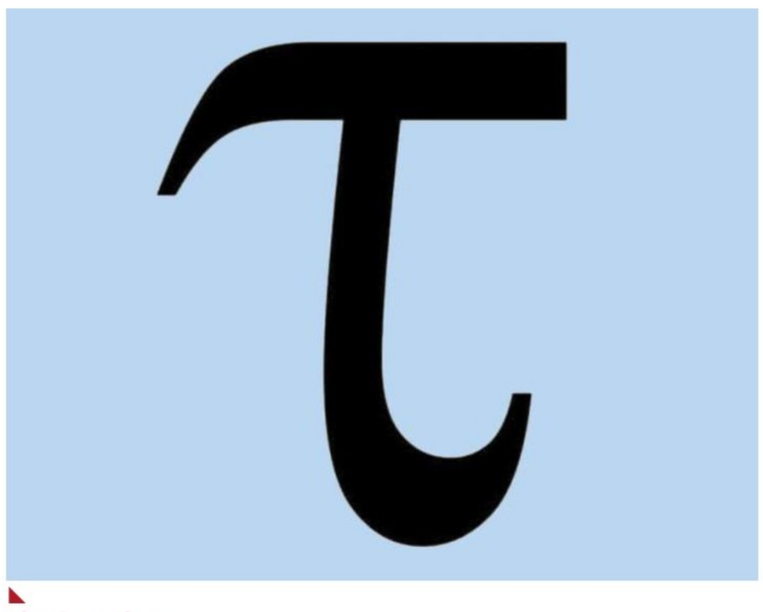
QUESTION 3
In 2019, UNESCO designated Pi Day to be celebrated as which day?

QUESTION 4
People also celebrate Pi on other dates in the year. Which are they? Why?

QUESTION 5
In the year 2015, March 14 was celebrated as Super Pi Day. Why?

QUESTION 6
Name two common ways of celebrating Pi Day.

QUESTION 7
Which famous scientist's birthday falls on Pi Day?
A: Albert Einstein



Visual question:
What is the symbol present in the image? How is it related to Pi? There is a specific time associated with the symbol. What is it?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This U.S. singer-songwriter became the youngest two-time Oscar winner. **Ans: Billie Eilish**
2. These actors who presented the award for visual effects and film editing, were an unlikely pairing in this 1988 comedy film. **Ans: Arnold Schwarzenegger and Danny DeVito; *Twins***
3. *The Zone of Interest* won the award for Best international feature film. It also won in this category. **Ans: Best sound**
4. This movie won the category in which *The Creator, Guardians of the Galaxy Vol 3* etc were nominated. **Ans: *Godzilla Minus One***
5. The action sequence from this movie made an appearance in a montage celebrating the contribution of stunt actors. **Ans: *RRR***
6. Christopher Nolan was nominated previously for this film. **Ans: *Dunkirk***
Visual: Identify this renowned production director. **Ans: Nitin Desai**
Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan| Akshay Kumar Khanna| Animesh Mohan| Divya Jaiswal| Tamal Biswas

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

Mr. N. S. Mani, Maraimalai Nagar, Madras, wants to know the exact meaning of 'flak' and how to use it.

" 'Flak' literally means 'anti-aircraft fire.' Figuratively, it means severe criticism or abuse.

The proposal to increase the price of petrol has come in for a lot of flak. The proposal to increase the price of petrol has run into a lot of flak.

It means that the proposal has been severely criticised.

The 'a' in 'flak' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'fan'. 'Flak' is also spelt 'flack'."

"Mr. K. Bomma Raju, Malleswaram, Bangalore, wants to know the meaning of (a) Tom, Dick and Harry (b) cakewalk."

" 'Tom, Dick and Harry' is a Victorian term for 'the man in the street.' It has a derogatory meaning. It means 'people unworthy of notice.'

Do not expect me to listen to every Tom, Dick and Harry.

A 'cakewalk' is a 'dance developed from an American black contest in graceful walking with a cake as prize.' The prize is given to the couple who walk most gracefully round the cake. Figuratively, it means 'an easy task'.

Winning from this constituency is not going to be a cakewalk for him.

'Cakes and ale' means 'merry making', 'a good time.'

Life is not cakes and ale.

Cakes and Ale is the title of a novel by Somerset Maugham. 'It's a piece of cake' means that it is something that can be done with little effort, something that is easily done. 'To take the cake' means 'to be conspicuously foolish, amusing, annoying, astonishing, outrageous.' This expression is from 'cakewalk'. It originally meant 'to win a price.' Now it is used ironically.

He takes the cake for sheer stupidity.

'To take the cake' is used informally in British English."

"Mr. M. P. V. Shankar, Channapatna, wants to know how to pronounce the past tense of 'beat'."

"It rhymes with 'feet' and 'seat'. Most people in this country pronounce it 'bet'. It is incorrect. There is no difference in pronunciation between the present and past tense of the word. Their spellings are also the same. Beat-beat-beaten. The 'ea' in 'beaten' is pronounced the way 'ea' is pronounced in the present and past tense of the word.

"Mr. V. Sankaran, S.P. Hospital, Madras, wants to know what is meant by 'back-formation.'"

"It has nothing to do with posterior development. It is a linguistic term. It describes the formation of a new word by the removal of the prefix or suffix of an existing word. Generally verbs are formed in this fashion from nouns and adjectives. The word 'enthuse' was formed from 'enthusiasm,' 'laze' from 'lazy,' 'burgle' from 'burglar,' 'edit' from 'editor'. Other back-formations are legislate, televise, automate, diagnose, liaise, self-destruct."

"Ms. D. Sailaja Sarma wants to know the meaning of 'primrose path'."

"It means 'the pursuit of pleasure, especially with disastrous consequences.'

Be careful. The primrose path appears attractive. But you will be ruined eventually if you take that path.

Published in The Hindu on June 4, 1991.

Word of the day

Blare:
a loud harsh or strident noise

Synonyms: cacophony, din, clamour, honk, toot

Usage: *He blared the horns of the taxi.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/blarepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /blɛə/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

HC orders pause on ₹8,005 cr. tender process for Sharavathi project

Larsen and Toubro Ltd. filed a petition questioning a March 6 order passed by a single judge who had rejected its petition, in which the company had challenged that only 21 days had been provided for submitting bids for the tender

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has ordered keeping in abeyance all actions in respect of a short-term tender invited for the ₹8,005 crore Sharavathi Pumped Storage and Hydro Electric project in Shivamogga and Uttara Kannada district, and directed all the parties to maintain status quo.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice N.V. Anjaria and Justice Krishna S. Dixit passed the interim order on March 11 on an appeal filed by Larsen and Toubro Ltd., Mumbai.

The company had questioned the March 6 order passed by a single judge, who had rejected its petition, in which the company had challenged that only 21 days had been provided for submitting bids for the tender instead of minimum period of 30 days for tenders exceeding ₹2 crore according to the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Rules, 2000.

Noticing that the rule empowers an authority, superior to the tender inviting authority, to reduce this minimum period for reasons to be recorded in writing, the single judge had said that the Board of the Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd. (KPCL) had approved short-term tender by giving only 21 days to submit bids by recording in writing the reason as the urgency implement the project due to shortage of power supply in the State.

However, when the Bench took up the hearing of company's appeal on March 11, it pointed that KPCL, even before the copy of the single judge's order was made available, had on March 11 issued Letter of Award of the project to one of the three bidders.

As the single judge's order was not available, the Bench said:"all the actions pursuant to the Letter of Award dated March 11, 2024 shall remain in abeyance and the parties shall maintain status quo till the next date of hearing."

L&T had contended that tenders of this nature would require minimum 90 days period for preparation and the short duration for accepting tenders was fixed for the Sharavathi project "only to favour particular tenderers."

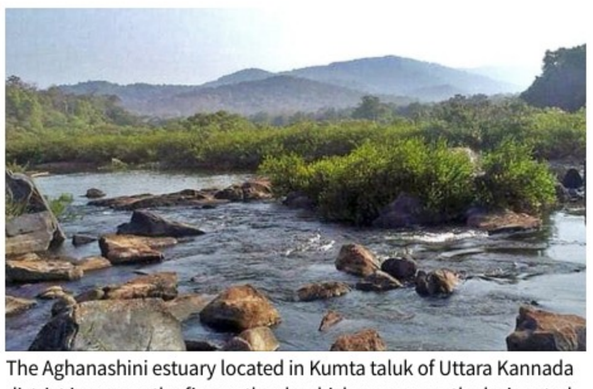
However, it was argued on behalf of KPCL that "even today, L&T had no eligibility to participate in the tender, as it was equipped with civil works and did not have experience in electro-mechanical and hydro-mechanical works. It wanted to partner with someone else but no one was coming forward. Therefore, the petitioner wants to stall the project."

Conservationists call for setting up Aghanashini Wetland Conservation Authority

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A group of conservationists along with the IISc.'s Energy and Wetlands Research Group have called for setting up the Aghanashini Wetland Conservation Authority in order to help with the wise use of natural resources at the Aghanashini estuary.

The Aghanashini estuary located in Kumta taluk of Uttara Kannada district is among the five wetlands which were recently designated as Ramsar sites under the Ramsar Convention.



The Aghanashini estuary located in Kumta taluk of Uttara Kannada district is among the five wetlands which were recently designated as Ramsar sites under the Ramsar Convention. FILE PHOTO

Flora and fauna

Covering an area of 4,801 hectares, the estuary, located at the confluence of the Aghanashini with the Arabian Sea, is home to over 80 fish, 115 birds and 45 mangroves and mangrove-associated species apart from sustaining the livelihoods of 6,000-7,500 families.

The estuary's mangrove areas store significant organic carbon contributing to climate change mitigation efforts.

"A Aghanashini Wetland Conservation Authority should be set up. We hope that with such an authority in place the wise use of wetland will happen with appropriate site management plans.

The authority should consist of people who matter for the region and the district unlike some other boards and authorities," T.V. Ramachandra, Energy and Wetlands Research Group, IISc., said.

Mangal Shetty, co-founder, Panchabhuta Conservation Foundation, said that the setting up of an institutional mechanism in the form of an authority would give impetus for co-management which will help in the wise use of the natural resources.

Advisory body

He said that while the government will be the main stakeholder, a multi-stakeholder advisory body or committee drafting and implementing wetland use of resources and other conservation measures is also suggested.

Apart from IISc.'s Energy and Wetlands Research Group and Panchabhuta Conservation Foundation the other institutions involved in the conservationist efforts include Integrated Design, Global Alliance for Sustainable Planet and World Wildlife Fund.

Government of India
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
National Highway Division, Deoghar.
Circular Road, Near D.C. Residence, Deoghar, Jharkhand (814112)

Notice Inviting Bid

Bid/ Package no.: NH/DEOGHAR/HAM/01/2023-24 Dated: 27.02.2024

RFP for Four Lanning of NH-114A from Km 65.500(Tower Chowk, Dumka) to Km 87.475 (Basukinath) (excluding 84.950km to 85.785km) in the State of Jharkhand under Hybrid Annuity Mode.
The Government of India has entrusted to the Authority the development, maintenance and management of Four Lanning of NH-114A from Km 65.500(Tower Chowk, Dumka) to Km 87.475 (Basukinath) (excluding 84.950km to 85.785km) in the State of Jharkhand under Hybrid Annuity Mode (the "Project") on the "Hybrid Annuity" basis, and has decided to carry out the bidding process for selection of a private entity as the Bidder to whom the Project may be awarded. Brief particulars of the Project are as follows:

Name of the Highway	Length (in Km)	Estimated Project Cost (Excluding GST) (Rs in Cr.)	Cost of RFP document in Rs (Including GST)	Bid Security (Rs. In Cr.)
Four Lanning of NH-114A from Km 65.500(Tower Chowk, Dumka) to Km 87.475 (Basukinath) (excluding 84.950km to 85.785km) in the State of Jharkhand under Hybrid Annuity Mode.	21.14	189.36	20000 +3600	1.89

The complete BID document can be viewed / downloaded from official portal of the CPPP website http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app from 01.04.2024 to 01.06.2024 (up to 1100 Hrs. IST). Bid must be submitted online only at http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app during the validity of registration with the CPPP e-Tendering Portal being managed by National Informatic Centre (NIC), i.e. http://eprocure.gov. in/eprocure/app on or before 01.06.2024 (upto 1100 hours IST). Technical submissions of the Bids received online shall be opened on 03.06.2024 (at 15 hours IST).

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
National Highway Division, Deoghar, Jharkhand
Mobile no.8789224908
Email: eenhdeoghar@gmail.com

PR.NO.322442 Deoghar(23-24):D

HINDUSTAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Maharatna Company)

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and Chevron Brands International LLC have entered into a long-term agreement encompassing the licensing, production, distribution, and marketing of Chevron's lubricant products under the Caltex brand in India. Applications are invited in the prescribed format from eligible candidates for appointment as Bazaar Lube Distributor for Selling Caltex (A Chevron Company product) and premium grades of HPCL Lubricants in India. For details on the advertisement, please see the website: **www.hplubricants.in** and click 'Become a CALTEX Distributor' under the Head 'Lube Distributor'. Any addendum/ corrigendum shall be posted on the website only.

Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha
No. 113, R. V. Road, V. V. Puram, Bangalore-560 004
Ph. No.: 080-22410151/22429151, 9900569151;
E-mail: sssbn1vvp@sreenidhibank.com

PUBLIC AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Sri Govinda Raju P

Sale of Immovable Property Mortgaged to Bank Under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

(No 54 of 2002) -- SARFAESI ACT

Whereas **Sri. Govinda Raju P** S/o **Sri. Pullappa A** residing at Flat No 103, Benaka Towers, 16th D Main, HAL 2nd Stage, Indira Nagar, Bangalore-560008 has borrowed monies from Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha, V V Puram Branch, #113, 1st Floor, R V Road, V V Puram, Bangalore–560004 and he owes a sum of **Rs.10,63,269/- (RupeesTen Lakhs Sixty Three Thousand Two Hundred And Sixty Nine only)** as on 12/3/2024andfurther interest @ 16.00% per annum and costs there on.
Whereas the Authorised Officer of the Bank has issued notice under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and thereafter has taken possession of the properties owned and mortgaged to the Bank by **Sri. Govinda Raju P S/o Sri.Pullappa A** residing at Flat No 103, Benaka Towers, 16th D Main, HAL 2nd Stage, Indira Nagar, Bangalore-560008 and decided to sell the property, described in Schedule herein below, on 'AS IS WHERE IS BASIS' under rules 8 & 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

DETAILS OF SALE: Place of Auction: Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha, #113, R.V. Road, V.V. Puram, Bangalore-560004.

Date/Day & time of auction: 15/04/2024 Monday at 11:00 AM.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcelof residential Flat bearing No. 103, in first floor, BBMP Katha No.23/16, PID NO. 74-52-23/16, situated atKodihalli, 1st Cross, Bangalore. named as "BENAKA TOWERS" measuring super built up area of about 1378 Sq.feet including common areas consisting Two bed rooms with one covered car parking space No.103, in the basement along with proportionate undivided share of land. Apartment Building is constructed over land measuring 26465 Sq.ft forming part of Sy.No.221/1,of kodihalli village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and Bounded on the: **East by:** Land of Ramaiah Reddy; **West by:** 17th Main Road; **North by:** 16th D Main Road; **South by:** Property of Chinnappa

Reserve Price: 92,50,000/-(Rupees Ninety Two Lakhs Fifty Thousand only)

Terms & Conditions of Auction:

1) The above schedule propertyis proposed for Public Auction on as is where is basis
2) For participating in the auction, the intending bidders have to deposit 10% of reserve price of the property by Bankers cheque/Demand Draft favouring the Authorised Officer, Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha, Payable at Bangalore which is refundable, if the bid is not successful
3) The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the bid amount immediately on the sale being knocked down in his favour and the balance within 15 days. Payment to be made only in the form of cash or bankers cheque/ DD drawn in favour of the Authorised Officer, Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha.
4) Incase the successful bidder fails to deposit 25% of bid amount immediately on the sale being knocked down in his favour and the balance amount within 15 days, the entire deposit made by the bidder shall be forfeited by the Authorised Officer without any notice
5) The successful bidder would bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance such as Stamp duty, Registration fee etc., as applicable as per law
6) The Authorised officer will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrance, property tax or any other dues to the Govt. or anybody in respect of the property under sale.
7) The Authorised Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject the bid or adjourn/ postpone the auction without assigning any reason therefore
8) The sale is subject to confirmation by the Bank
9) **The auction of the property will be made as per the above order or at the discretion of the Authorised Officer.**
10) For inspection of property, the intending bidders may contact, Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha, V.V Puram Branch, #113, 1st Floor, R.V Road, V.V Puram Bangalore – 560004 during the office hours or may contact at **Telephone No. 080-22410151 / 22429151, 9900569151.**

Date : 13/03/2024 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Bengaluru Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha

DIRECTORATE OF E. S. I. S. MEDICAL SERVICES
S. Nijalingappa Road, II Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore 560 010.
https://esisms.karnataka.gov.in Tel/Fax:080-2332 4216

Tender No.: ESIS/Group-D/OS/03/2023-24 **Date: 12.03.2024**

TENDER FOR OUTSOURCING OF GROUP-D/NURSING ORDERLY, SWEEPERS/SECURITY STAFF, DRIVERS, COOK, COOKMATE ON OUTSOURCE CONTRACT BASIS - SOUTH ZONE.

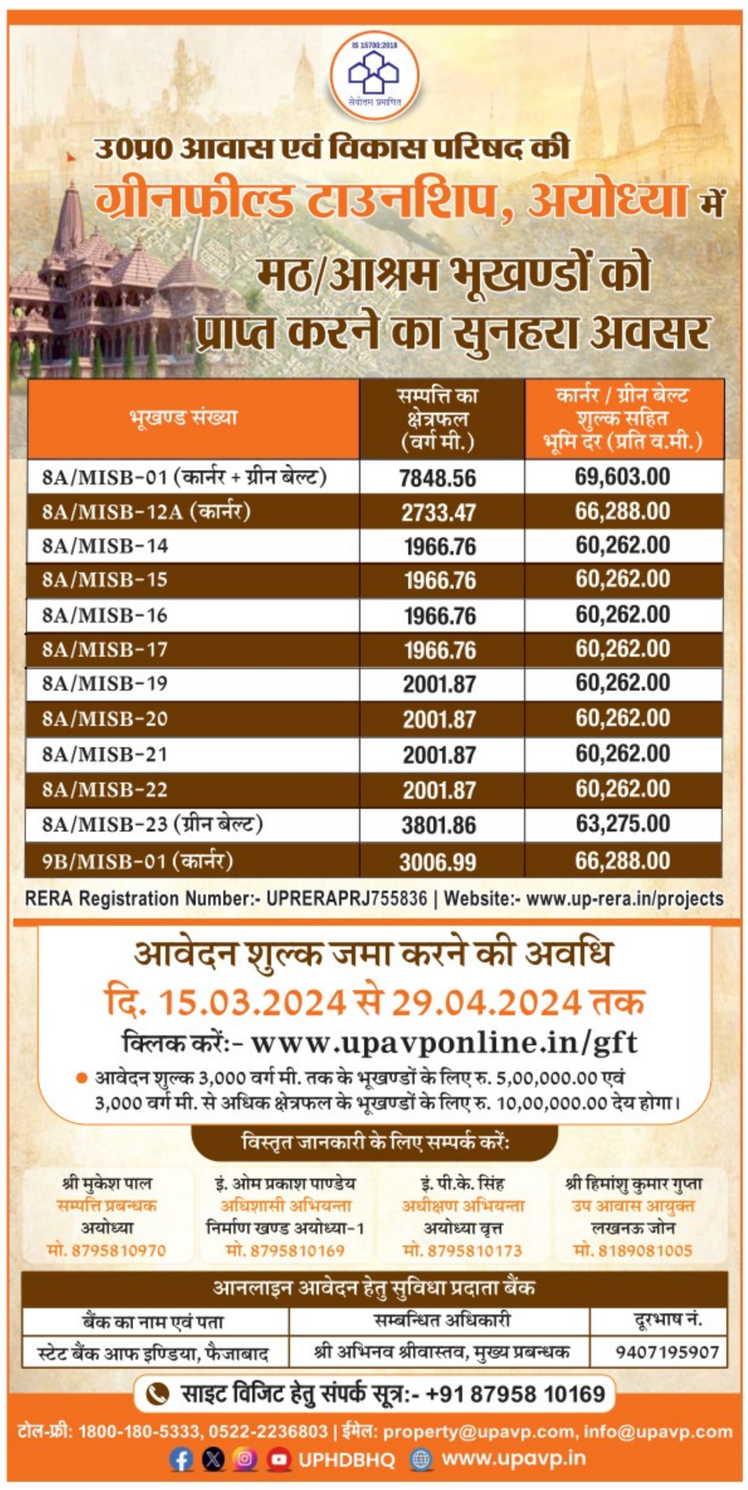
Sl. No.	Designation	No of Vacancies	Sl. No.	Designation	No of Vacancies
1	Group-D/Nursing Orderly	212	4	COOK	02
2	Sweepers (Sanitary Workers)	39	5	COOK MATE	02
3	SECURITY STAFF	31	6	DRIVERS	08

EMD Amount	Rs.19,49,336/-
Last date for submission of tender through e-procurement	03.04.2024, 5.00 p.m.
Date for opening of Technical Bid of tenders received through e-procurement portal system	05.04.2024, 12.00 Noon
Date of pre-bid meeting	21.03.2024, 11.30 a.m.
Place of opening of tender	Directorate of ESIS Medical Services, S. Nijalingappa Road, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560010.

For further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.
visit : www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Director
ESIS Medical Services

DIPR/CP/4242/AKAR/2023-24



Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam Ltd.
(CIN; U40108JH2013SGC001702)
Regd. Office:- Engineering Building, HEC, Dhurwa, Ranchi–834004.
fax # 0651-2400483 e-mail : cesd.jseb@gmail.com

Notice Inviting Tender

Tender is invited for Construction & commissioning of 33kv line for Power evacuation from Chandankyari and Jainamore GSSs of JUSNL under Electric Supply Circle, Chas, JBVNL.

Sl. No.	NIT No.	Description	Estimate Value (Incl. GST) (Rs. In Crs.)	EMD Value (Incl. GST) (Rs. In Lacs.)	Tender Cost (Incl. GST) (in Rs.)	Down-loading/ Sale of Tender Document	Pre Bid Meeting	Last Date of Sale of Tender Document	Last Date of submission of Tender Document	Date of Opening of Tender
1.	567/PR/JBVNL/23-24	Construction & commissioning of 33kv line from 33/11 KV Pindrajora PSS to 33/11 KV Chas PSS, 33/11 KV Chas PSS to 33/11 KV Phudanidih PSS and 33/11 KV Narayanpur PSS to 33/11 KV Bari Co-operative PSS for evacuating power from 132/33 KV GSS, Chandankyari of JUSNL under Chas circle, JBVNL on Turnkey Basis.	14.06	28.12	11,800	14.03.2024	20.03.2024 at 03:30 PM	04.04.2024 up to 05:00 PM	04.04.2024 up to 06:00 PM	08.04.2024 up to 05:00 PM
2.	568/PR/JBVNL/23-24	Construction & commissioning of 33kv line from 220/132/33 kv GSS, Jainamore to 33/11kv Pathuria PSS, 33/11kv PSS Pathuria to 33/11kv PSS Bagiyari and 2 nos of 33kv line from 220/132/33kv GSS, Jainamore to 33/11kv Jainamore PSS for evacuating power from 220/132/33 kv GSS, Jainamore under Chas circle, JBVNL on Turnkey Basis.	7.50	15.00	11,800	14.03.2024	20.03.2024 at 03:30 PM	04.04.2024 up to 05:00 PM	04.04.2024 up to 06:00 PM	08.04.2024 up to 05:00 PM

Further details against the above tender can be obtained from website http:jharkhandtenders.gov.in and may be contacted on Mobile No. 7004815844, NIC helpline No. 0651-2400178. Submission of Bid document fee and EMD will be accepted through online mode only and it's receipt should be submitted to the office of undersigned on or before 04.04.2024.

स्वहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचायें। कृपया अपनी शिकयतों को टॉलफ्री नं० 1800 345 6570 पर दर्ज करायें।

Sd/
GM (STN)
JBVNL

PR 322535 (Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd) 23-24 (D)

A BG-BGE

PRR land-losers, farmers plan to file mass petition in HC to scrap project

We will file mass petitions in the High Court soon to scrap the project...As per the BDA Act, the notification has expired and the project is no longer valid, we will contend.

RAMESH S.,
A farmer

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As the State government has cut the guidance value of land notified for the Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) project, farmers are now planning to file mass petitions in the High Court seeking the scrapping of the project.

This may create new hurdles for the much delayed project, even as the government is keen for it to take off. In 2023, the Stamps and Registration Department revised the guidance value upwards across the State including 67 villages where the project would come up.

However, earlier this month, the State slashed the guidance value by nearly half upsetting land-losers. This would have a direct impact on the compensation which they will receive. Angered by this, the farmers have now decided to move the court.

Ramesh S. (name changed), a farmer talking to *The Hindu*, said this has irked the land-losers and the government decision of axing the value is highly discriminatory. "We will file mass petitions in the High Court soon to scrap the project."

He further said that the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) issued final notification for the project in 2007 and even after several years, the BDA hasn't commenced work. "As per the BDA Act, the notification has expired and the project is no longer valid, we will contend," he said.

Another farmer said in the court the land losers will pray for either scrapping the project or to issue new notification.

It should be noted that in 2007 the BDA issued notification under the BDA Act 1984 and now if they want to issue a new notification it should be done under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.

This will change the structure of the compensation. Even then the compensation will not be satisfactory as guidance value has now been reduced, he contended.

In 2016, the BDA wrote to the Stamps and Registration Department asking them not to raise the guidance value of the land notified for the PRR.

Man caught trying to fly to Kazakhstan with another's passport

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Airline staff caught a 30-year-old private firm employee from Bengaluru while he was trying to board a flight to Almaty in Kazakhstan using another person's passport.

The accused, identified as Shreyas R. Ramananda, a resident of Vijaynagar, had gone to Delhi by a domestic flight from Bengaluru and tried to board a flight to Almaty.

The IndiGo staff verified the passport and found a different person in the photograph. A detailed inquiry with Shreyas led him to confess that he was trying to travel with the passport of Ramanada Matigodu Satyanarayana. The accused was sent back to Bengaluru.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20

INDIAN RAILWAYS

"PUBLIC NOTIFICATION"

Notice is hereby given to all users of Railway lines and premises situated on the under–noted section of the South Western Railway that the 25000 Volt, 50 Hz., AC overhead traction wires will be energised on or after the date specified against the section. On and from the same date the overhead traction line shall be treated as live at all times and no unauthorized person shall approach or work in the proximity of the said overhead line.

Section	Line	Chainage		OHE Location		Probable Date of Energisation
		From (Km.)	To (Km.)	From	To	
Hosur Station yard	Road No. 3	157/302.00	158.584.10	57/16A	HSRA/1037	15.03.2024
	Road No. 4	157/458.00	158/687.60	HSRA/3001	158/29	
	Road No. 5	157/539.00	158/579.06	HSRA/3005	HSRA/3035	
	Proposed Up Main Line	159/289.00	159/680.50	159/13B	159/25A	
	Temporary Diversion line	158/740.00	159/170.09	158/32A	159/D17	
	Crossover (Up to Dn)	159/109.00	159/450.07	159/7A	159/18A	
	Crossover (Dn to Up)	159/292.80	159/631.00	159/14	159/25	

PUB/746/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24

Chief Project Manager, Gati Shakti, Bengaluru

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

Govt. of Jharkhand
ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT
Road Divison , Seraikella-Kharsawan

e-Procurement Notice

Tender Reference No. RCD/SERAIKELLA/19 Date :- 11.03.2024

1.	Name of the work	Construction of basic infrastructure of international level for industrial area at Adityapur region (Adityapur Industrial Area Phase I) (Total Length 7.982 Km.) for the year 2023-24
2.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	**Rs. 43,47,89,168.96 (Rupees Forty Three Crore Forty Seven lakh Eighty Nine thousand One hundred Sixty Eight and Paise Ninety Six only)**
3.	Time of Completion	12 (Twelve) Months
4.	Last Date /Time for receipt of bids	27.04.2024 (12.00 Noon)
5.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	30.03.2024 (10.30 AM)
6.	Date and Place of Pre-bid Meeting	05.04.2024 (11:30 A.M.) Office of the Chief Engineer (C), Road Construction Department, Jharkhand, First Floor, Engineers Hostel No. -02, Dhurwa, Ranchi
7.	Name & Address of office Inviting tender	Ganesh Ram Hembrom O/o Executive Engineer , Road Construction Department , Road Division , Seraikella-Kharsawan
8.	Contact no. of Procurement Officer	8809347906
9.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	0651-2401010

Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
Estimated Amount may increase or decrease

Executive Engineer
RCD , Road Division
Seraikella-harsawan

PR 322360 (Road) 23-24 (D)

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on @SCRailwayindia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C.Railway can be seen on our website: www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (through https://ireps.gov.in) PUB/0256

CE/C/P&Sy/SC, CE/C-V/SC, CE/C-IV/SC, CE/C/P&Sy/SC, CE/C-III/SC & CE/C-VI/SC Construction Organisation, S.C.Railway, Secunderabad, respectively, invites e-tender on behalf of the President of India for the following works:

S.No.: 1 **NIT No:** 03-CAO-C-SC-2024 Date:07/03/2024 **Name of work:** SCR Construction Organization: Conducting Final Location survey, Joint Inspection; Development and Preparation of GADs, Preparation of Detailed Estimate, Detailed project report; Preparation of Detailed Drawings and Design for Foundation, Sub-structure & Superstructure of Road over bridge/ Road under Bridge including viaduct spans and Approaches; Design of Reinforced Earth wall & Retaining wall; Proof checking of Foundation, Structural and RE wall/Retaining Wall Design; Preparation of Land Acquisition Proposals; Conducting Geotechnical investigation; Preparation of BOQ, Preparation of EPC Bid Document with Technical specifications as per relevant codes/Manuals for Construction of ROBs. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 7,98,60,690.00 **EMD:** ₹ 5,49,300.00 **Completion Period:** 12 (Twelve)Months **Date of Opening:** 04/04/2024 15:00 hrs.

S.No.: 2 **NIT No:** 04-CAO- C-SC-2024 Date: 09/03/2024 **Name of work:** SCR Construction Organization: Nanded Division - Development of Coach Maintenance Facilities - Balance works of pit line related works, construction of sewage treatment plant, Type - III quarters and other connected works at JALNA yard. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 7,30,31,195.40 **EMD:** ₹ 5,15,200.00 **Completion Period:** 06 (Six)Months **Date of Opening:** 04/04/2024 15:00 hrs.

S.No.: 3 **NIT No:** 05-CAO- C-SC-2024 Date: 09/03/2024 **Name of work:** SCR Construction Organization - Secunderabad Division - Left over works in connection with proposed 3rd line with electrification between Kazipet - Kondapalli stations - Transportation of P. Way materials, proposed laying and linking of BG track, assembling and insertion of points & crossings, supplying leading and dumping of stone ballast, welding of rails, fabrication and insertion of 60 Kg glued insulated rail joints and execution of miscellaneous works from Km.542.00 to km.568.00 at Errupalem , Gangineni and Cheruvumadhavaram stations. Provision of loop lines, Extensions of Bridges and Misc. works in connection with Phase-2 works in CVV, GNN & YP yards and their approaches. Provision of PF shelters, Extension and provision of platforms, Approach roads, Track machine rest rooms at sidings, SSP Buildings and Misc. works in connection with works in CVV, GNN & YP yards and their approaches. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 41,52,44,968.80 **EMD:** ₹ 22,26,200.00 **Completion Period:** 09 (Nine) Months **Date of Opening:** 04/04/2024 15:00 hrs.

S.No.: 4 **NIT No:** EPC-15-CAO-C-SC-2024 Date: 06/03/2024 **Name of work:** SCR Construction Organization: Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC) contract in connection with Doubling of Track between Basar station (Incl) from Km 430.000 (Ch: 430000) & Navipet station to Km 446.900 (Ch:446900) [i.e. (16.90km)] including Electrification & Signaling works in connection with Mudkhed-Medchal Doubling Project in Hyderabad Division of South Central Railway in the State of Telangana." **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 211,62,75,982.99 **EMD:** ₹ 1,05,81,400.00 **Completion Period:** 24 (Twenty Four) **Date of Opening:** 19/06/2024 15:00 hrs.

S.No.: 5 **NIT No:** EPC-02-CAO-C-SC-2024 Date: 09/03/2024 **Name of work:** SCR Construction Organization - Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contract for Doubling of track between Valigonda station (Incl.) and Kukkadam station (Excl.) from Km 28.00 to Km 103.00 (i.e., 75 Km) including Electrification & Signaling works in connection with Guntur-Bibinagar doubling project in Guntur division of South Central Railway. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 853,08,64,889.50 **EMD:** ₹ 2,00,00,000.00 **Completion Period:** 33 (Thirty Three) Months **Date of Opening:** 20/06/2024 15:00 hrs.

S.No.: 6 **NIT No:** EPC-03-CAO-C-SC- 2024 Date: 09/03/2024 **Name of work:** SCR Construction Organization: Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) contract in connection with Proposed Doubling of Mahbubnagar - Dhone Section Proposed Construction of Important Bridges i) Bridge No.353 over Mareddypalli vagu at Ch.165379.00m with 15x12.20m Clear span PSC Slab, ii) Bridge No.375 over Okachetty vagu at Ch.173523.00m with 21x12.20m Clear span PSC Slab and iii) Bridge No.398 over Krishna river at Ch.182034.0m with 34x24.40m Clear span PSC Box Girder iv) Bridge No.442 over Tungabhadra River at Ch.241415.82m with 45x18.30m Clear span PSC U-girder and v) Bridge No.450 over Handrineeva River at Ch.244347.30 m with 14x12.20m Clear span PSC Slab including earthwork on approaches of the bridges, bridge protective works and other miscellaneous works in Hyderabad Division of South Central Railway in the State of Telangana. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 161,13,42,299.63 **EMD:** ₹ 80,56,800.00 **Completion Period:** 30 (Thirty)Months Months **Date of Opening:** 25/06/2024 15:00 hrs

i) For bid document and other details, please login to website **https://ireps.gov.in.**

ii) Tenderers can submit their offers online during tender submission period which is the Fifteen days period prior to closing of tender.

iii) Tenderers should watch for any corrigenda (issued online only) up to the date of commencement of the tender submission period.

Chief Administrative Officer,
A0322 **Construction,Secunderabad**

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, please visit website at www.ireps.gov.in http://www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

Public Work Department
Office of the Executive Engineer Public Works (West) Division Aurangabad
Address:- Public Works Premise, Padampura, Aurangabad 431005 E-mail
aaddress :- westaurangabad.ce@mahapwd.gov.in Telephone/Fax Number:-0240 2331288
E-Tender Notice No.(54) of 2023-24

E-Tender for the following work in B-1Tender Form is invited via offline tendering system from Eligible Contractor by the Executive Engineer, Public Works (west) Division, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar on behalf of Public Works Department, Government of Maharashtra Tender Document are downloaded from goverment portal https://www.paytopwd.gov.in Right to select or reject is reserved by Executive Engineer, Public works (west) Division, Aurangabad. Conditional Tender will be not accepted. (No.50 Works)

All information of e-tender is available on following portal.
A) http://mahapwd.gov.in
B) https://mahatenders.gov.in
If any change made in this e-tender is informed on above portal.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Public works(west)Division,
Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar

DGIPR/2023-2024/9674

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20

E- Tender Notice NO. MYS-COM-Pub-MUSCAF-24 Dated : 02-02-2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites Tender Applications for the Contract for maintenance and operation of Cafeteria at Mysuru Railway Museum for a Period of Five years. Tenders can be uploaded **upto 12 Hours of 18-04-2024.**

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager
PUB/744/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24 **Mysuru**

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that my client has intent to purchase the following immovable properties:

Item No.1 All that piece and parcel of immovable Agricultural Land bearing **Old Sy.No.168/3, New Sy.No.168/7 Measuring 0-06(Six)Guntas,** and bounded on the:-
East by : Property of Shamanna;
West by : Property of Rajappa;
North by : Property of Yashodamma;
South by : Property of Akkeppa;

Item No.2 All that piece and parcel of immovable Agricultural Land bearing **Old Sy.No.168/7, New Sy.No.168/8 Measuring 0-06(Six)Guntas,** and bounded on the:-
East by : Property of Shamanna;
West by : Remaining Property in the same Sy.No ;
North by : Property of Yashodamma;
South by : Property of Akkeppa;

All the above mentioned Immovable Properties are Situated at **HANDRAHALLI Village, Channarayapatna Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Bangalore:**
From its present Owners **Smt.K.Nagaveni and Sri.K.Raghu,** (Represented by their GPA Holder Smt.B.N.Hemavathi) who acquired the Schedule Property through the registered Absolute Sale Deed and Gift Deed: **1. Sale Deed** dated 30/07/2018, vide Document No.DNH-1-03454-2018-19, **2.Gift Deed** dated 15/12/2018, vide Document No.DNH-1-08585-2018-19.
All Registered in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore Rural District (Devanahalli).
Persons having any right over the said property may lodge their objections/claims with documentary evidence within **10 days** from this day to the undersigned. In the absence of any claims within the above said period. It shall be deemed that there are no such claims or that if there are any claims and they have not been made, it shall be deemed to have been waived.

P. NAGAMUNI REDDY,
Advocate, SNN Associates,
No. No.248, 2nd Floor, 10th Main, 1st Block, 100 Feet Road, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bengaluru – 560043, Land Mark – Near Horamavu Signal, Above Canara Bank & HDFC ATM.
Mr.Naveen - 9886623505

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
R.C.D. , ROAD DIVISION, SAHIBGANJ

e- Procurement Notice

e-Tender Reference no.- **RCD/SAHIBGANJ/207/2023-24**
Dated : 13.03.2024

1	Name of Work	**Road Safety work in Govindpur-Sahibganj Road (SH-18) from Km 226.750 to 286.100 Km (Total Length-59.350 Km) under Road Division, Sahibganj**
2	Estimated Cost (Rs)	**Rs. 5,49,36,500.00** (Rupees Five Crores Forty Nine Lacs Thirty Six Thousand Five Hundred and Zero Paise) Only.
3	Time of Completion	06 (Six) Months
4	Last date / Time for receipt of bids	24.04.2024 upto 12.00 Noon
5	Date of Publication of Tender on website	03.04.2024 from 10.30 A.M.
6	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Executive Engineer, R.C.D. Road Division, Sahibganj
7	Contact no. of Procurement officer	8271102250
8	Helpline number of e- Procurement cell	0651 - 2401010

Further details can be seen on website ***http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in***

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
ROAD CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT
PR 322498 Road(23-24)#D ROAD DIVISION, SAHIBGANJ

KARNATAKA RURAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PROJECT DIVISION, KOPPAL
TEL.NO: 08539 -231054 FAX.NO: 08539-231054
E-Mail: kn-kop @ pmgsy.nic.in

No. PD/KPL/KKRDB/Micro/2023-24/769 Dtd:11.03.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Karnataka Rural Road Development Agency, Project Division Koppal invites Item Rate Tenders for the KKRDB 2023-24 Micro Saving works shown in the below table as per Standard Bid Document KW-4 through e-procurement portal in two cover system.

(1) Name of Work : **Improvements to road From Jalihal to Gotagi road (Ch:0.00 to 0.540 km) in Kustagi taluka of Koppal district (2) Estimated Contract Value (Rs Lakhs) 155.50 (3)** Stipulated Period of completion : **9 months** (including monsoon period) **(4)** EMD amount in Lakhs :**2.34 Lakhs.**
Calendar of events of tendering is as follows:

(1) Pre-Bid Meeting for KW-4 :19.03.2024, 11.30 hrs **(2)** Last date for receipt of objections & queries : 20.03.2024, 11.30 hrs **(3)** Last date for online submission of Technical and Financial bid : 21.03.2024, 16.30 hrs **(4)** Opening of Technical bid : 22.03.2024, after 16.30 hrs. **(5)** Opening of Financial bid After technical bid approval.

For any further information, contact Executive Engineer, Project Division Koppal during office hours (Ph. 08539 –231054)
Details can be had from the https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Project Division, Koppal

DIPR/Koppal/538/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY/2023-24.

M.P. PASCHIM KSHETRA VIDYUT VITARAN CO. LTD.
GPH Compound, Pologround, Indore
(Ph. No. : 0731-2426144, 2426204, 2426166, E-mail : sepurchase06@gmail.com
CIN-U40109MP2002SGC015121)

No. MD/WZ/06/PUR/NIT-302/4132 **Indore, Dated : 13.03.2024**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(A) Online tenders are invited for supply of following items as per TS :-

TS No.	Name of Item	Unit	Approx Qty.	Online Tender Opening Date
1787	3 Phase 4 wire LT WC AMR Meters (10-100 or 20-100 Amp)"	No.	2281	24.04.2024
1788	RCA for Reclamation of Burnt/Used/Old Transformer Oil	KL	1000	30.05.2024
1789	Purchase of Safety appliances and tools & plants for Line staff.	No.	25500	30.04.2024

(B) Online tenders are invited for supply of following Services as per TS :-

TS No.	Name of Item	Estimated Cost (I/c of GST) (In Rs. Lac)	Online Tender Opening Date
1790	Providing specialized highly skilled resources for 2 years.	465.00	23.04.2024
1791	Rate contract of photocopy work for different section of the Corporate Office under MPPKVVCL, Indore.	11.17	07.05.2024
1792	Management of Operations of Centralized Call Center at MPPKVVCL, Indore.	2488.00	22.05.2024

Note : NIT No. 301 dated 07.03.2024 in respect of TS-1762 is here by cancelled.
For further detailed information visit **website http://www.mpwz.co.in** or **https://www.mptenders.gov.in**

M.P. Madhyam/114417/2024 **CHIEF ENGINEER (PURCHASE)**

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Chennai Division
No. M-TRD-29-I-0T-2023-24-14R4,37R3,39R2,42R Dt. 12.03.2024.

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager/Traction Distribution Branch, Chennai Division, S. Railway, Chennai 3, invites online tender from the experienced Contractors for the following works for further details, please refer to **www.ireps.gov.in**

Sl. No.	Tender No. / Name of the work	Value (Rs.)	Closing date/time
1.	**M-TRD-29-1-0T-2023-24-14R4** "Outsourcing of maintenance activities of 25 kV traction system for 6 Nos of nonsub-urban PSI depots and OHE non-core activities of 8 Nos of nonsub-urban OHE depots fra period of 2 year	5,26,98,646.05/-	03/04/2024 (15:00 hrs)
2.	**M-TRD-29-1-01-2023-24-37R3** Augmentation of OHE auxiliary transformer (AT) supply arrangements in connection with Provision of back up power supply at LC gates in Chennai Division.	35,46,667.00	03/04/2024 (15:00 hrs)
3.	**M-TRD-29-1-0T-2023-24-39R2** Modification to existing OHE arrangements in connection Upgradation of Wagon Maintenance infrastructure at TNPM Yard	32,79,494.84	03/04/2024 (15:00 hrs)
4.	**M-TRD-29-1-01-2023-24-42R** OHE Modification works in connection with Provision of new halt station at kilambakkam between VDR and UPM stations in TBM-CGL Section of Chennai Division	46,97,090.63/-	03/04/2024 (15:00 hrs)

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SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice
Southern Railway - Electrical (TRD) Branch, Tiruchchirappalli Division

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager, Traction Distribution, Southern Railway, Tiruchchirappalli - 620001 invites online E-tenders from prospective tenderers / bidders.

1.	**Tender Number**	**TPJ-TRD-2023-2024-033**
2.	**Name of work**	TPJ Div.: Provision of Power Quality Restorer For AC Traction System at Traction Substation at VM/TSS
3.	**Approx. value of tender**	Rs. 4,34,00,000.00/-
4.	**Cost of tender booklet**	Nil
5.	**Bid Security**	Rs. 3,67,000/-
6.	**Date & Time of Bidding**	27.03.2024 to 15:00 Hours on 10.04.2024
7.	**Date & Time of Tender Opening**	After 15:00 Hours on 10.04.2024
8.	**Period of completion**	Eight Months
9.	**Period of validity of offer**	90 days from the date of tender opening for the following work.

Note: 1) All Addendum/Corrigendum, Time extension, clarifications, etc. will be uploaded on or before 27.03.2024, in the website only and will not be published separately in Newspapers. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

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BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through kpp portal)

BWSSB invites tenders from registered Agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560 009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for receipt of tender	Date & time for opening of tender
1	South-2	BWSSB/EE(S2)/AE/2170/2023-24 Date: 29.02.2024	Rs.4,20,000/- / Rs.12,400/-	26.03.2024 upto 4.00 pm	28.03.2024 after 4.00 pm
2		BWSSB/EE(S2)/AE/2172/2023-24 Date: 29.02.2024	Rs.8,88,773/- / Rs.26,300/-		
3		BWSSB/EES2/PB/2174/2023-24 Date: 29.02.2024	Rs.44,79,775/- / Rs.1,05,750/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South-2)

Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560 009.

4	South East-2	BWSSB/EESE-2/TO/PB/3834/2023-24 Date: 11.03.2024	Rs.18,94,008.2/- / Rs.55,900/-	22.03.2024 upto 4.00 pm	25.03.2024 after 3.00 pm
5			Rs.46,30,556.71/- / Rs.1,09,300/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South East-2)

Office of the Chief Engineer (North), 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560 009.

6	Central	BWSSB/EEC/PB/3324/2023-24 Date: 07.03.2024	Rs.13,17,199/- / Rs.38,900/-	22.03.2024 upto 5.00 pm	25.03.2024 after 5.01 pm

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Central)

Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & QA), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560 009.

7	DE&PS	BWSSB/EDEPSTE/AE/1098/2023-24 Date: 07.03.2024(2nd Call) (Reserved for SC Category)	Rs.14,24,500/- / Rs.21,100/-	21.03.2024 upto 11.00 am	22.03.2024 after 11.15 am

Sd/- Executive Engineer (DE&PS)

The details regarding participation in the tendering process and tender can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/4249/AKAR/2023-24

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Salem Division
E-Tender Notice No. SA-TRD-2023-24-133 dated 12.03.2024

Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction and Distribution branch/ Salem Division, Salem -5 for and on behalf of the President of India Invites ONLINE tenders for the following works as per tender notice given in our e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in**. The Tenderer(s)/Contractor(s) intending to apply for e-tender for works in Salem Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tender will be accepted. It is the responsibility of Tenderer(s)/Contractor(s) to obtain Digital Signature certificates for participating e-tendering.

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Name of work
1	SA-TRD-2023-24-133A	Electrical TRD arrangements for Salem Division - Elimination of PSR by realignment of 3 degree curve no. 23 in DN line (Mission 3000 MT)
2	SA-TRD-2023-24-133B	Salem Division Modification to OHE in connection with provision of 12 metre wide Foot Over Bridge at Karur Junction & Salem Junction and 6 metre wide Foot Over Bridge at Podanur Junction under Amrit Bharat scheme.

Sl. No.	Appx. value of the work (in lakh)	Cost of tender form	Amount of EMD	Completion period of work
1	47.79	0	95600	06 months
2	45.04	0	90100	06 months

Sl.No.1& 2: Tender closing date and time: 03.04.2024 at 14.30 Hrs.

Complete details of the above tenders are given on the e-portal **"www.ireps.gov.in".**

For Details of bid submission, please refer website portal **"www.ireps.gov.in"**.

The online bids for tenders floated through the above portal are required to be digitally signed.

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MADHYA PRADESH BUILDING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(An Agency of Govt. of M.P. Public Works Department)
16-A, CEDMAP Building, Arera Hills, Bhopal (MP)-462011
Telephone No. : 0755-4853297, 0755-4853295
E-mail : einc-mpbdc@mp.gov.in, ajay.nagaria@mp.gov.in

NIT No. : 4975/GM/MPBDC/CW/24/NIT-53 **Bhopal, Dtd. : 13.03.2024**

NOTICE INVINTING TENDER

Madhya Pradesh Building Development Corporation invites online tender for the following works in various Districts of Madhya Pradesh :-

1. Construction of Nursing Colleges in Medical College at Vidisha, Shahdol, Ratlam, Khandwa, Datia and Shivpuri- **06 Works – PAC for each work Rs. 1183.72 Lakhs**
2. Construction, Renovation and Upgradation of Existing 100 Bedded District Hospital into 200 Bedded District Hospital along with 50 Bedded MCH in District Hospital Alirajpur, District Alirajpur - **01 Work – PAC Rs. 2900.00 Lakhs**
3. Construction/Upgradation of Existing 100 Bedded District Hospital into 200 Bedded District Hospital in District Hospital Niwari, District Niwari - **01 Work – PAC Rs. 2016.00 Lakhs**
4. Construction Work of Technical Office and Other Renovation Work at State Shooting Academy Bhopal, M.P. **(2nd Call) – 01 Work – PAC Rs. 263.83 Lakhs**

From bidders registered in M.P. PWD Department under appropriate category. Detailed NIT and tender documents can be viewed and purchased online only from **05.04.2024 at 18:00 hrs. to 06.05.2024 at 15:30 hrs (for S. No. 1 to 8) and 18.03.2024 at 18:00 hrs. to 02.04.2024 at 15:30 hrs (for S. No. 9 only) from** website **www.mptenders.gov.in**
PAC can very at the time of uploading of tender if required in document. Any amendment/corrigendum 'if any' will be published on website only, will not be published on newspapers.

M.P. Madhyam/114397/2024 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice
Southern Railway - Electrical (TRD) Branch, Tiruchchirappalli Division

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager, Traction Distribution, Southern Railway, Tiruchchirappalli - 620001 invites online E-tenders from prospective tenderers / bidders.

1.	**Tender Number**	**TPJ-TRD-2023-2024-033**
2.	**Name of work**	TPJ Div.: Provision of Power Quality Restorer For AC Traction System at Traction Substation at VM/TSS
3.	**Approx. value of tender**	Rs. 4,34,00,000.00/-
4.	**Cost of tender booklet**	Nil
5.	**Bid Security**	Rs. 3,67,000/-
6.	**Date & Time of Bidding**	27.03.2024 to 15:00 Hours on 10.04.2024
7.	**Date & Time of Tender Opening**	After 15:00 Hours on 10.04.2024
8.	**Period of completion**	Eight Months
9.	**Period of validity of offer**	90 days from the date of tender opening for the following work.

Note: 1) All Addendum/Corrigendum, Time extension, clarifications, etc. will be uploaded on or before 27.03.2024, in the website only and will not be published separately in Newspapers. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

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Dr. SPM International Institute of Information Technology - Naya Raipur (IIIT-NR)

Sector-24, Nava Raipur, Atal Nagar - 493661 (Chhattisgarh)

OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY

Dr. S.P. Mukherjee IIIT-Naya Raipur invites separates bids from eligible and interested bidders for supply and installation of the following:-

1. Workstation and other equipment for AI Experiential Lab.
2. Workstation and other equipment for Edge Computing Lab.
3. NVIDIA Jetson and RaspberryPI for AI&DL Lab.
4. Red Hat Linux workstation.
5. Repair/Replacement of damaged parts of rooftop solar panels.
6. Supply of plumbing and civil items.

For last date and other details please visit the website of IIIT-Naya Raipur **https://www.iiitnr.ac.in/tenders**

Registrar

ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

ಚಾಮರಾಜಪೇಟೆ ಸರ್ಕಲ್, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ-577001
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: wchdvg.84@gmail.com ದೂ. ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08192 258784

ಸಂ: ಮಮಆ/ಸರಬ/155/2023-24 ದಿನಾಂಕ:11-03-2024

ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಇಲ್ಲಿಗೆ 2024-25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಔಷಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಪಡೆಯಲು ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.50,00,000/- ಇಚ್ಛೆಯುಳ್ಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರು, ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ತಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಸಹಾಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080-25501216 ಮತ್ತು 25501227 ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಅಗತ್ಯ ಸಹಾಯವನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ:07-03-2024 ರಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22-03-2024 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 4.30 ರವರೆಗೆ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು. ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22-03-2024 ಮೊದಲನೆ ಲಕೋಟೆ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25-03-2024ರ ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11.00ಕ್ಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ಎರಡನೇಯ ಲಕೋಟೆ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 28-03-2024ರ ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11.00ಕ್ಕೆ ಆಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/708/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2023-24

ಸಹಿ/- ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕರು,
ಮಹಿಳೆಯರ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of Health Officer (Bommanahalli), #79, 2nd Floor, HSR BDA Complex, 12th Main Road, 6th Sector, HSR Layout, Bangalore -560 102

No.:BOM/HO/PR/90/2023-24 **Date:13.03.2024**

CORRIGENDUM

The Health Officer, Bommanahalli Zone, has invited tenders from eligible tenders for Providing Manpower and Equipment's to Mosquito Control on out source basis in various wards of Bommanahalli Zone and providing 2-Auto with 2- Driver and 2-Spray men for mosquito control activity for Bommanahalli Assembly Constituency and Bangalore South Assembly Constituency.

The Dates are extended as below: **1)** Tender corrigendum may be downloaded from KPP portal. **2)** Last date for submission of tenders: **05.04.2024 up to 5.00 p.m.** 3) Date of opening of Technical Bids: **06.04.2024 at 5.10 p.m.** Further details can be accessed from GoK KPP Portal: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Health Officer, Bommanahalli Zone.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, (Mahadevapura-Lakes), Room No.306, 3rd Floor, Annex Building-3, BBMP Head Office, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-02.

No: EE/Mahadevapur-Lakes/TN-15/2023-24 Date:13.03.2024

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

Tenders on Item Rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the work mentioned below from the registered contractors of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or Equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Government Organizations.

Sl No.	Name of the work
1.	Providing Chain Link Fencing to Lakes in Mahadevapura Assembly Constituency. (General) (Call-4) Value of Work: Rs.250.00 Lakhs EMD: Rs.3,75,000/-

Calendar of Events : (1) Bid Documents can be downloaded from **14.03.2024** onwards. (2) Pre-Bid meeting will be held on **18.03.2024** at **3:30** pm. (3) Tenders must be submitted online through kpp portal on or before **25.03.2024** upto **4:00** pm. (4) Technical Bids will be opened on **26.03.2024** at **4:30** pm.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Mahadevapura-Lakes)

HOME-SSA3/43/2024-HOME-Part(1)

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR, UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) TRIBUNAL, ROOM NO. 15, GROUND FLOOR, BLOCK 'A', DELHI HIGH COURT, NEW DELHI-110503

RE: Notification No. S.O. 354 (E) dated 29th January, 2024 issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, under Section 3(1) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, declaring the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) as an Unlawful Association.

To,
Students Islamic Movement of India

WHEREAS the Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-sections (1) and (3) of Section 3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (37 of 1967) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") has declared Students Islamic Movement of India (for short 'SIMI') to be an "Unlawful Association" vide Notification No. S.O. 354 (E) dated 29th January, 2024 [published in the Gazette of India: Extraordinary Part II, Section 3 (ii)].

AND WHEREAS by Gazette Notification No. S.O. 722 (E) dated 16th February, 2024 [published in the Gazette of India: Extraordinary Part II, Section 3 (ii)], in exercise of powers under sub-section (1) of Section 5 read with sub-section (1) of Section 4 of the Act, the Central Government has constituted a Tribunal comprising Hon'ble Mr. Justice Purushaindra Kumar Kaurav, Judge of the High Court of Delhi, for adjudicating as to whether or not there is sufficient cause for declaring Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) as an "Unlawful Association" as required by sub-section (1) of Section 4 of the said Act.

NOW THEREFORE, a notice is hereby given under sub-section (2) of Section 4 of the Act and you are hereby called upon to show cause, within 30 days from the date of service of notice, as to why your Association, declared as unlawful, be not adjudicated to be so and why an order confirming such declaration be not made under Section 4(3) of the Act.

The objections/reply affidavits, if any, may be filed/delivered, before the next date of hearing of the Tribunal, to the undersigned at his office in Room No. 15, Ground Floor, 'A' Block, Delhi High Court, Sher Shah Road, New Delhi- 110503. In case the objections / reply and documents are in regional language, true English Translation thereof be also attached.

You may appear through a duly authorized person before the Tribunal on 09.04.2024 at 04:30 pm in Court Room No. 16, Delhi High Court, Sher Shah Road, New Delhi-110503 for further proceedings.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal, High Court of Delhi, New Delhi this the 29th February, 2024

Sd/- (Jitendra Pratap Singh)
REGISTRAR,
Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal,
Delhi High Court Building,
Sher Shah Road, New Delhi

(48/F4/2024/I&PRD)

idco ODISHA

Your power to grow — NEW OPPORTUNITIES

ISO 9001 & 14001 Corporation

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C), IDCO, IDCO TOWERS, JANPATH, BHUBANESWAR - 751022

Tender Call Notice No. IDCO:H.O/P&C/EST/E-2562/01/2023/ 8437, Dt.12.03.2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

1. Name of the Work : Construction of Internal Road and Drain at Nuagaon Industrial Estate, Choudwar, Cuttack, Odisha
2. Value of the Work : Rs.312.70 Lakhs
3. Period of Completion : 04 (Four) Calendar Months
4. Other details :

Procurement Officer	Tender Reference No.	Avilability of Tender on-line for bidding	
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P & C), IDCO, IDCO Towers, Janpath, Bhubaneswar-751022	P&C/EST/E-218/2023-24	19.03.2024 at 17.00 Hrs.	03.04.2024 upto 17.00 Hrs.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** and Corrigendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can only be seen in the e-procurement portal **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** and **www.idco.in.**

Sd/- Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar

CAD-4620 OIPR-14003/11/0483/2324

WATCO

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, WATCO

Ground Floor, Unnati Bhawan, H.B.Colony, Satyanagar, Bhubaneswar-751007, Odisha, India
Telefax : -+91-674-2391444 ; E-mail – ceowatcoodisha@gmail.com; md@watcoodisha.in

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) - Bid Identification No.WATCO(W)-53/2023-24 Dtd. 07.03.2024

WATCO No. 1684, Date : 07.03.2024

1. Name of the work : "Procurement of ISI marked DI K-9, K-7 socket, spigot pressure pipes & Restrain joint pipes of different diameter for WATCO Division-Puri."
2. Types of Bid : Double Cover (Technical & Financial)
3. Estimated Cost : Rs.488.83 Lakh
6. Period of Completion : 2 (Two) Months
7. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the Portal. : From 11.00 AM of Dt.14.03.2024 to 5.00 PM of 01.04.2024
6. Last date/time of receipt of bids in the portal : 5.00 PM of 01.04.2024.
7. Date & Time of opening of technical bids : 12.30 PM of 02.04.2024
8. Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid : CEO, WATCO E-Mail : ceowatcoodisha@gmail.com
9. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only.

Further details can be seen from the web site www.tendersodisha.gov.in

C-3293

CEO, WATCO

OIPR-13194/11/0097/2324

Government of Karnataka
(Public Works Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer Public Works Department Division Bidar

No.: EE/PWD/Dvn/Bdr/JE-3/2023-24/3937 Date : 12-03-2024

INVITATION FOR TENDERS

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer, Public Works Dept. Divn. Bidar invites Tenders from eligible Tenderers, for the **CONSTRUCTION OF COURT COMPLEX AT BASAVAKALYAN TOWN IN BASAVAKALYAN TALUKA.** The tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criterion specified in I.T.T. Clause-3 of Standard Tender document **KW-4,** to qualify for award of the Contract. Tender documents may be downloaded from the **Karnataka Public Procurement Portal** of the Govt. of Karnataka **Viz. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Details as Follows

1.	Date of Pre Bid Meeting	**18.04.2024 at 16.00 Hrs. in the office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division Bidar Karnataka**
2.	Approximate Value of Work Rs. in Lakhs	**1065.93 Lakhs**
3.	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs. in Lakhs)	**Part-I through e-payment Rs. 1.00 Lakhs** **Part-II through Bank Guarantee/DD/FDR for Rs. 14.00 lakhs**
4.	Tender Processing Fee	**Rs. 7500.00**
5.	Work Indent No.	**PWD/2023-24/BD/WORK_INDENT 9685**
6.	Period of Completion	**18 Months (Including Mansoon)**
7.	Last date of clarification	**20-04-2024**
8.	Last date for Receipt of tenders	**22-04-2024 through KPP Portal only on or before 16.08 hours**
9.	Opening of Technical Bids	**23-04-2024**
10.	Opening of Financial Bids	**24-04-2024**

Further any other information can be seen from the kpp portal or can be had from the undersigned.

Sd/- **Shivshankar V. Kamshetty**
Executive Engineer, PWD Divn., Bidar

Government of Karnataka
(PWD Division Raichur)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION RAICHUR
Telephone No. : 08532-225778 & 234747

KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION -(KW- 1,2, 3 & 4)

THESE WORKS ARE GENARAL & SC CONTRACTORS

1) Notification No & Date: PWD/RDN/TS-4/TN/2023-24/4462 Date: 12-03-2024 **2) Name of work's:** Raichur District Total 34 work's Raichur, Manvi, Deodurga, Lingasugur & Sindhanur taluk Different types of Buildings & Road Maintainance works. **3) Amount of works:** Min Rs. 134523.90 Max Rs. 48314295.52 **4) EMD Amount:** Min Rs. 3400.00 Max Rs. 724800.00 **5) Period (including Manson)**: Min 1 (One) Month Max 11 (Eleven) Months **6) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tender:** 19/03/2024 16:00:00 **7) Date and Time for Opening of Tender** : 20/03/2024 16:30:00

For More details visit this website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/

SD/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PWD Division, RAICHUR.

DIP/RCR/593/KSMC&A/590/2023-24

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
office of the Executive Engineer, Hemavathi canal Division, Tumkur - 572101 Ph.No: 0816-2201415

KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL SHORT TERM-TENDER NOTIFICATION No: 06/2023-24 Dt: 12.03.2024 (Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

On behalf of the Managing Director, CNNL, Bengaluru, the Executive Engineer, CNNL, Hemavathi Canal Division, Tumakuru the undersigned invites tender on "TURN KEY" basis using KW-4 standard conditions from eligible class –I KPWD contractors for the work as detailed below.

Indent No:- CNNL/2023-24/LI/WORK_INDENT905 Amount put to tender Rs:46.92 crores

1. The contractor can have access to Electronic Bid documents-I & II in Karnataka Public procurement Portal from Dated:- 13.03.2024 to 20.03.2024 up to 4.00 pm 2. Last date & Time for Queries in Karnataka Public procurement Portal Dt:- 16.03.2024 till 4.00 pm. 3. Pre-bid meeting on Dt:- 16.03.2024 at 11.00 am in the office of Executive Engineer, Hemavathy Canal Division, CNNL, Kunigal road, Tumakuru. 4. Electronic Bid Document-1 (Technical Bid) will be opened in Karnataka Public portal on 21.03.2024 at 5.30 PM. Onwards. 5. Electronic Bid Document-2 (Financial bid) of qualified Technical bidders will be opened in Karnataka Public portal on Dt: 28.03.2024 at 11.00 am onwards or any other convenient date, after the approval of Electronic Bid Document-1 (Technical Bid) For EMD details, work details, eligible class of contractor, qualification conditions & any other conditions can be obtained in https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Hemavathi Canal Division, CNNL,Tumkur.

DIPR/TUM/842/KSMCA/2023-24

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

email : serwsbd2003@yahoo.com

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA.

No: **e-Procurement Notice for Bridge works** Date:

1. Name of the Work : **Construction of Bridges - 05 Nos**
2. Class of Contractor : **"A" & "Special" Class** of (Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authority.
3. Estimated Cost : **Varies from Rs.532.67 Lakhs to Rs.967.12 Lakhs (Approximately)**
4. Details projects as per Annexure attached :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bids
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda	**CCERWCSBD - Online - 68/2023-24**	**14.03.2024 at 11.00 A.M.**	**28.03.2024 up to 05.00 P.M.**	**27.03.2024 up to 2.00 P.M.**	**30.03.2024 at 11.00 A.M.**	**To be intimated separately**

5. The details of works can be seen from the web site : **https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in** for Road & Bridge works.
6. Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the above e-tender web sites.

Chief Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda.

O-2787: OIPR-25182/11/0076/2324

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD

(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
Head Office : Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14,
(Telephone No. 0471-2945600)
E-mail : edrugs.kmscl@kerala.gov.in,
website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No.KMSCL/ED/13/2024 **Date : 12.03.2024**

E-TENDER NOTICE

Online bids are invited from **manufacturers/direct importers/ loan licensees** on behalf of Department of Health, Govt of Kerala for the procurement of drugs for the year 2023-24.

Sl. No.	Tender No. and Date	No. of items
1.	KMSCL/ED/VIT-A/RC/2024/002 Dtd. 13/03/2024	1

The last date and time of online uploading of tenders will be 06.04.2024, 5.00 pm. The date and time of opening of Technical bid will be 11.04.2024, 11.30 am. Tender documents can be downloaded and submitted online through the e-tender portal **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.**

(Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

National Dairy Development Board

PB No. 40, Anand - 388001, Gujarat
Tel: 02692-260 148/149/160 Fax: 02692-260 159
Website: http://www.nddb.coop, Email: purchase@nddb.coop

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) / LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (LCB)

Bids are invited on behalf of Service Recipients/ NDDB from eligible bidders for the works listed below:

Sr. No.	Description of works/ Bid Reference	Estd. Cost (₹) incl GST/ Duration	Event Start/ Close Date	Bid submission/ opening date & time
A	**Civil, Structural, Water Supply, Sanitary & Other Misc. works including Internal Electrification works for:**			
I	5 LLPD Dairy and 15 LLPD ETP at Verka Dairy, Mohali, Punjab. **NDDB/HO/Purchase/110/23-24/ET/110 (CIVIL-MOHALI)**	7500 Lakh/ 15 Months	22.03.24/ 12.04.24	12.04.24 15:00 hrs. 12.04.24 15:30 hrs.
II	150 TPD Cattle Feed Plant expandable to 300 TPD at Village Khari Ka Lamba, NH 48, Hurda, Bhilwara, Rajasthan. **NDDB/HO/Purchase/111/23-24/ET/111 (CIVIL-CFP BHILWARA)**	1800 Lakh/ 13 Months	19.03.24/ 09.04.24	09.04.24 15:00 hrs. 09.04.24 15:30 hrs.
III	Vaccine Manufacturing Plant of IIL at TSIIC Biotech Park, Phase-III, Karkapatla, Siddipet District, Telangana. **NDDB/HO/Purchase/112/23-24/ET/112 (CIVIL-KARKAPATLA)**	6597 Lakh/ 18 Months	15.03.24/ 05.04.24	05.04.24 15:00 hrs. 05.04.24 15:30 hrs.
B	**Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning at Village Khari Ka Lamba, NH 48, Hurda, Bhilwara, Rajasthan for the following:**			
I	1 No 500 kgs Solid fuel boiler & 1 No 500 Kgs biogas fired boiler. **NDDB/HO/Purchase/113/23-24/ET/113 (BOILER-BHILWARA)**	124 Lakh/ 10 Months	19.03.24/ 09.04.24	09.04.24 15:00 hrs. 09.04.24 15:30 hrs.
II	Fire Hydrant system. **NDDB/HO/Purchase/109/23-24/ET/109 (FIRE SYS BHILWARA)**	81 Lakh/ 10 Months	16.03.24/ 06.04.24	06.04.24 15:00 hrs. 06.04.24 15:30 hrs.
III	11KV / 433 V Electrical Substation with DG set. **NDDB/HO/Purchase/114/23-24/ET/114 (SUBS.-BHILWARA)**	245 Lakh/ 08 Months	14.03.24/ 04.04.24	04.04.24 15:00 hrs. 04.04.24 15:30 hrs.
C	Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 66/11/0.433 KV Electrical Substation at Verka, Mohali, Punjab. **NDDB/HO/Purchase/118/23-24/ET/118 (SUBS - MOHALI)**	1440 Lakh/ 12 Months	20.03.24/ 10.04.24	10.04.24 15:00 hrs. 10.04.24 15:30 hrs.

For further details pertaining to IFB and for downloading the bid document, please visit these websites: **www.nddb.coop**, and **www.mstcecommerce.com/eprocn** For any clarification please contact **Group Head (Purchase), NDDB, Anand**-388001
NB: Any corrigendum/modification etc. will be posted only on these websites.

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಜಯನಗರ

ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಜಯನಗರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560041

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಸಾಆಜ/ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಗ್ರೂಪ್-ಡಿ/15/2022-23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11.03.2024

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಜಯನಗರ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ಈ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯ 2023-24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಈ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಗ್ರೂಪ್-ಡಿ **ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳ** ಕೆಲಸ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗಾಗಿ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲಗಳ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ಸೇವೆ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ.

ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ವಿವರ: 32 ಜನ ಗ್ರೂಪ್-ಡಿ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ. **ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ:** ರೂ. 70,66,172.00 **ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರ:** (1) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **13.03.2024**ರಿಂದ. (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **22.03.2024, 4:00 ಗಂಟೆ**ಯವರೆಗೆ. (3) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ (Technical Bid) ದಿನಾಂಕ: **23.03.2024, 5:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ**. (4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ (Financial Bid) ದಿನಾಂಕ: **27.03.2024, 4:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ**. ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳ ನಿಯಮ ಮತ್ತು ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲಗತ್ತಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. "E-Tender upload through this website: **https//:kppp.karnataka.gov.in"**

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಎಲ್‌ಸಿ/4245/2023-24

ಸಹಿ/-, ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕರು
ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಜಯನಗರ

Government of Karnataka Zilla Panchayat, Chitradurga

Office of The District Officer, Backward Classes Welfare Department-577504

E-mail:-dobcmchitradurga@gmail.com Ph. No:08194-235034

No.: BCWD/SH/CR-52/2023-24 Date: 07.03.2024

e-Tender Notice

Tender is invited through e-procurement from interested, eligible firms for supply of food and other material to Pre-Matric & Post-Matric Student Hostels and Ashrama Schools coming under the jurisdiction of Backward Classes Welfare Department, Chitradurga District and can participate through e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Name of the District:- Chitradurga Amount put to e-Tender (Rs. in lakhs):- 3193.82 EMD Amount (Rs. in lakhs):- 31.93

Last date for submission of Tender:- 08.05.2024 upto 5.00 PM

Further information can be obtained from this office during office hours and by logging on to website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/687/2023-24

Sd/- District Officer, Backward Classes Welfare Department, Chitradurga

Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Kolar Division, Kolar-563101.

e-mail: eepwdkolar07@gmail.com, website:www.kpwd.gov.in
e-portal: http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Phone No: 08152-222022, Fax No: 08152-227443

e-tender Notification – K.W. 4

Tender notification No: 28/2023-24 Dt. 11.03.2024

Tender is invited through e-Procurement for 2 works in the limits of Srinivasapura Taluk, Kolar District Public Works Department from the Class-2 & above PWD Registered Contractors under **H/A: 5054- MDR Improvements Amount put to tender: Minimum: Rs. 308.47 Lakhs,Maximum: Rs.320.27 Lakhs. EMD Amount: Min: Rs. 4.63 Lakhs, Max: Rs.4.81 Lakhs. Period for completion of work: 9 months.** Contractors may download the tender documents KW- 4 from Karnataka State Procurement portal **(viz., htpp://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Filled in tenders shall be uploaded **on or before 16.00 hours. on 18.4.2024** through Karnataka State Procurement portal. Tender received will be opened **after 16.30 hours on 19.4.2024 in e-Procurement.** Further details regarding the works and also for details about this tender notification please contact e-Procurement portal and also you may contact this office during working hours.

Note: Any changes in this Notification will be published in e-portal only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Kolar.

DIPR/KOLAR/R.O.No.407/KSMC&A/2023-24

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PWD Ramanagara Division, Ramanagara.

Short Term Tender Notification No. : 13/2023-24 **Date : 13-03-2024**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from qualified contractors for the works through **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** portal as per the Standard Bid Documents. The eligible contractors can participate in this tender through KPPP portal **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Number of Work 01 : 1) Documents may be Downloaded from : 14-03-2024, 2) Last Date for Submission of Tender : 21-03-2024 upto 16.00 hours, 3) Date of Opening of Technical Bid : 22-03-2024 at 16.30 hours. (If possible) Tender Processing Fees and EMD as per KPPP Portal.

(Estimate Cost Rs. 495.00 Lakhs).

For more information contact the above Office during Office Hours.

Note : Here after any changes with reference to this Notification will be Notified in https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Portal Only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, Ramanagara Division, Ramanagara.

DIPR/Ramanagar/591/Manipal/2023-24

Government of Karnataka
District Minorities Welfare Department, Vijayapura

No:MWD/Out Source/E-Tender/C.R-01/2023-24 Date: 12.03.2024

E-Tender Notification

2023-24 Vacancy in Vijayapur District Minority Welfare Department Hostel/Morarji Desai Residential Schools/ District Office/Information Centers for Cooks, Cook Assistants and Watchmen, Computer Knowledgeable First Division Assistants, Female Nurses, Cleaning Staff, Jawan in District Office and Taluk Information Centers E-tenders are invited to procure the services of Jawan/Group 'D', Driver and Data Entry Operators/Staff through Outsourcing Agency.

1. Tender Reference No :MWD/2023-24/SE0040
2. Estimated amount of tender Rs. **363.00 lakhs and E.M.D. Rs.5.44 lakhs**
3. Last date and time fixed for submission of tender: **12.04.2024 At 5.00 PM**
4. Date and place of Pre Bid Meeting with potential bidders: **20.03.2024 At 11.00 AM. District Officers Office, Minority Welfare Department, Kanakadasa Badawane, ZP, Road, Vijayapura-586109.**
5. Date and place of opening of technical bids: **15.04.2024 At 11.00 AM. District Officers Office, Minority Welfare Department, Kanakadasa Badawane, ZP, Road, Vijayapura-586109.**
6. Date and place of opening of financial bids: **22-04-2024 At 11.00 AM (Subject to change.) District Officers Office, Minority Welfare Department, Kanakadasa Badawane, ZP, Road, Vijayapura-586109.**
7. Further contact details for Pre-bid meeting place and technical and financial bid opening place: **District Officers Office, Minority Welfare Department, Kanakadasa Badawane, ZP, Road, Vijayapura-586109. Tel No: 08352-276523**

Interested bidders can get the information at https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in website.

Sd/- District Officer, Minority Welfare Department, Vijayapur

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/567/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2023-24

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No.:Outsource_TechAst_DataAna3 Dated : 09-03-2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work

Item of work	Approx. Value
Hiring of Manpower for	Rs. 4,15,59,000/-

Technical Assistance in S&T maintenance activities and Data Analysts for 24x7 operation of Test Room in Bengaluru Railway Division of South Western Railway for a period of 24 Months.

Last date for submission of bids : **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 01-04-2024**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/ Bengaluru

PUB/743/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Open Tender Notice No. BE-TLAC-RMPU-CAMC-2024-27 (Through E-Tendering)

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Description of work	Approx. Value
Centralized	Rs. 56,41,01,326.06

Comprehensive Maintenance Contract of RMPU and its control Panel of AC coaches (Conventional and LHB type) at Bengaluru, Hubballi & Mysuru Divisions and POH / SS-2 / SS-3 of AC coaches at Hubballi South & Mysuru South over South Western Railway and escorting of AC coaches of the primary trains at SMVB depot and Special trains across Bengaluru Division for three years.

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 03-04-2024**

For det ils log ona www.ireps.gov.in

Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer Bengaluru

PUB/741/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

KFC Kerala Financial Corporation

TENDER

KFC invites tender for the following:

1.**Consultant for Digital Transformation in KFC.** (RFP No. KFC/IT/E-Tender/01/2023-24 dated 13.03.2024)

2.**Consultant for setting up a Special Company** to agglomerate land parcels in Kerala for Infrastructure development. (RFP No.KFC/F&A/E-Tender/02/2023-24 dated 13.03.2024)

Last date 17.04.2024, 4 PM. Visit www.kfc.org for more details.

13.03.2024, TVPM Sd/- CMD, KFC

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, PHULBANI (R&B) CIRCLE, PHULBANI

Phone:-06842 254004 E-mail : sernbphulbani@gmail.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Bid Identification No.CCE_R and B_PLB_25 of 2023-24

No. 455 Dated : 12/03/2024

1. The **Chief Construction Engineer, Phulbani (R&B) Circle, Phulbani** on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites **percentage rate bid** in double cover system in **ONLINE MODE** for construction of the **Bridge and Building works** as detailed in the table below from eligible contractors.

2.	Nature of work	:	**Bridge & Building Works.**
3.	No. of tenders	:	**Two Nos**
4.	Tender Cost	:	**Rs.10,000/-** (through online) only.
5.	Class of Contractor	:	**Special, A & B Class**
6.	Date & Time of sale & receipt of Bids	:	**10.00 AM of 22.03.2024 to 5.00 PM of 06.04.2024**
7.	Date of Opening of Bid	:	**11.00 AM** of **08.04.2024**

8. The Bidders shall have to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum/Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason.

Chief Construction Engineer, Phulbani (R&B) Circle, Phulbani.

B-1924: OIPR-34129/11/0027/2324

राज ऋषि भर्तृहरि मत्स्य विश्वविद्यालय, अलवर
(अस्थाई कार्यालय : महिला छात्रावास भवन, मानूशोमाराम राजकीय कला महाविद्यालय, अलवर)

Phone : 0144-2730321, 2730327, 2980046 FAX : 0144-2730321 Website : www.rrbmuniv.ac.in

क्रमांक :– राऋभमवि/अल/ संस्था/2024/204 दिनांक :–13.03.2024

ADVERTISEMENT No. 01/2024

Vacancies for Various Teaching/Academic Posts

Online applications are invited for various vacant Teaching/Academic posts of Associate Professor-10 Posts and Assistant Professor-15 Posts in the University. Online application form, Qualifications and other details will be available on the University Website www.rrbmuniv.ac.in from 13-03-2024 Last date for online submission of application forms is 12-04-2024 till 12:00 Midnight.

राज.संवाद/सी/23/14774 **Registrar**

KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION e - TENDER

ABRIDGED NIT

The Director General (TP&DD), KMC invites e-tender/quotation online expression of interest of lower bidder for the following work :

NIT No.: KMC/D.G.(TPDD)/05/2023-2024

Name of the Work: **Up-gradation and Refurbishment of Brick Sewer along Judges Court Road by de-silting and GRP lining in Br-IX area;** Estimated Value : **Tender amount to be quoted by the bidder**; Earnest Money: **Rs. 57,00,000.00;** Period of Completion : **24 months;** Last Date and Time of Submission of Bid : **25.04.2024 at 3 p.m.**; Bid submission start date (Online) on : **19.03.2024 at 3 p.m.**; The bid forms and other details are available on and from **19.03.2024 at 3 p.m.** from the website **https://etender.wb.nic.in.**

1572/23-24

PUBLIC NOTICE

We hereby bring to the notice and attention of the general public that our client Sri. Mohan Kumar M.K, residing at Flat No. 714, 1st Floor, 4th Cross, Sobha Dewflower Apartment, Sarakki Main Road, JP Nagar 1st Phase, Bangalore South 560078 has lost the Original Sale Deed in respect of Plot No. 11, Rajajinagar Industrial Suburb 2nd stage, Bangalore registered as Document No. BDA-1-00272-2014-15.

A Police Complaint (Lost Report Number: 0956869/2024) has been lodged in this regard. Any person who is in custody of the said documents or finds the same, is hereby requested to return the same to the addresses mentioned herein same to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of this publication.

Srividya P M (Associate Advocate)
P. Mahalinga Bhat & Associates
Advocates,
TF-2, 3rd Floor, Keerthi Kuteeram Apartment, #2386, Pipeline Road, 2nd Stage, Kumaraswamy Layout, Bangalore-560078, Mob: 9481806159.
Bangalore
Dated: 13-03-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General public that my client is intends to purchase the below mentioned property from its owner **Shri A. ANTHUVAN XAVIER SELVARAJ**, aged 46 years, Son of Shri. A. ADAIKALASAMY now working as Senior Support Manager in ORACLE, Bld. No.6, Dubai Internet City, Dubai, UAE, Staying at Flat No. 611, Obaidullah Al Tawi Building, Burdubai, Dubai, UAE Now camp at Bangalore.

Whereas in this regard it is hereby notified that if any person/s or financial institutions/ Association or anybody as sort of claim or objections or interest or title in respect of the below mentioned schedule property, such person/s financial institutions/ association, shall file their objections or claims with documents pertaining to the below mentioned schedule property and against the proposed sale transaction with the undersigned within **15 days** from date of this public notice. In the event of non receiving of any objections or claim from anybody else within the specified time my client shall proceed to complete the sale transactions presuming that there is no such interest or title to claim or objections from anybody else over the below mentioned Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of immoveable Property bearing Old No. 2041, situated Saitpalya Village, Kacharakanahalli Panchayat, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Now comes under Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Municipal Property No.61/1, Saitpalya, Kacharakanahalli, Old Ward No.89, New Ward No. 49 Lingarajapuram, Bangalore (The Unique "Property ID No." (PID) allotted to this Property is 89-76-61/1), BBMP E - Asthi Record No. 1652087, Total Measuring (32.0+32.6)/2 X 43 Feet, in part of C-8 portion of measuring **East by:** 40.0 (Forty) Feet, **West by:** 40.0 Forty) Feet, **North by:** 30.0(Thirty) Feet, **South by:** 30.0(Thirty) Feet, Totally measuring 1200 Sq. Ft or 12.192024 Meters X 9.144018 Meters = 111.4838 Sq. Meters and together with Ground Floor measuring 92.903 Sq. Meters, First Floor, 92.903 Sq. Meters and Second Floor measuring 46.4515 Sq. Meters constructed thereon with all civic amenities,

AND BOUNDED ON THE: **East by:** Private Property, **West by:** Private Property (K.C. Jagannath Reddy. C.M.R.), **North by:** Private Property (K.Shankari, #B8B Block Saitpalya, L.R. Puram, Bangalore - 560084. [EB No. 5EEH27632], **South by:** Road. Canal (Opp St. Joseph's Church)

SAYEED MUMTAZ, Advocate
No. 75, H.K.P. Road, Shivajinagar
Bangalore - 51. Mobile - 9886325402
Date: 04-03-2024

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

School Education, A.P. Ref. No.:(1) CSE-SE-IT-2024-3-4 (Tender ID : 732467) Dt.11-03-2024.

Tender Call Notice issued for Procurement of Large Display Active LED, 98 LEDs and VC infrastructure School Education Department, GoAP.

For further details regarding detailed Tender Notification, specifications please visit **https://cse.ap.gov.in/** and **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in/**

DIPR 2781PP/CL, Dt: 13-03-2024

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Corporate Office, Main Road, Kalaburagi-585102, Ph No. 08472-256581

ಸಂ. ಜೆಸ್ಕಾಂ/ಮು.ಅ.(ವಿ)/ಕಾ.ನಿ.ಅ(ರೆ.ಎ)/ಪ್ರ.ಲೆ.ಅ(ಆರ್.ಎ)/23–24/62164–68 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 13–03–2024

NOTIFICATION

Revision of Electricity Tariff for FY-25 of Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company Limited

In exercise of the powers conferred under section 62, 64 and other provisions of the Electricity Act-2003, the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission determines and notifies the distribution and retail supply tariff of GESCOM for FY-25 on 28.02.2024.

TARIFF EFFECTIVE

* The Revised tariff determined in the KERC order dated 28.02.2024 will come into effect for the electricity consumed from the first meter reading date falling on or after **1st April 2024.**

Details of Tariff order is available on the GESCOM official website https://gescom.karnataka.gov.in/ and KERC website https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in/ and also the information can be obtained from nearby GESCOM offices.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/999/KSMC&A/2023-24

Sd/- Chief Engineer Electy., Operations, GESCOM, Kalaburagi

NANDI MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE
E-mail: cimschikkaballapura@gmail.com,
Phone and Fax: 08156-272388,

No:NMC&RI/CKB/TENDER/67/2023-24 ದಿನಾಂಕ:12.03.2024

Tender Notification

Nandi Medical College & Research Institution (District Hospital Campus) Chikkaballapura invites tenders from the eligible tenderers through the Electronic Tenders for the following subjects. **(1)** Consumables and Disposables – Approximate Rs.1 Crore. **(2)** Drugs (Injection, Tablets, ointments & Syrups) - Approximate Rs.2 Crore. **(3)** Printing of Various Formats and Registers - **Approximate Rs.40 Lakhs. (4)** Purchase of Microscopes - **Approximate Rs.50 Lakhs. (5)** Stationery Items - Approximate Rs.15 Lakhs.**Last Date for Online Submission of Tender is 12.04.2024 at 5.30 P.M. For further information about tender the details please log on to: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Note: For any further information and announcements regarding this tender please keep on watching our website i.e., **https://cimschikkaballapura.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-DIRECTOR, NMC&RI, CHIKKABALLAPURA

DIPR/CHIKKABALLAPURA/RO:321/KSMCA/2023-24

BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari, Bengaluru - 560070.

No: EE/RDW&SD/BNG(U)/TND/07/2023-24
Dated: 12-03-2024

KPPP SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE

Tenders are invited through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for the works approved Under SDRF Head of Grants for the year 2023-24 Under Two Cover System. The Tender Documents can be obtained and Submitted **on or before 19-03-2024 upto 4.00 PM.** For further details contact the above address during office hours or visit Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division
Bangalore Urban Dist, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/4252/Adverto/2023-24

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ, ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಹೊಸಪೇಟೆ, ವಿಜಯನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.

ಸಂ:ಪಿಬಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ/2023–24/3543 ದಿ:– 11.03.2024

ಅಲ್ಪಾವದಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ, ಹೊಸಪೇಟೆ, ವಿಜಯನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯದಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ
1	PWD/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT8158	291.69
2	PWD/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT8408	990.00
3	PWD/2023-24/BG/WORK_INDENT8028	310.00
4	PWD/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT10179	110.00
5	PWD/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT8159	142.00
6	PWD/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT8160	111.89
7	PWD/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT4151/CALL-2	100.00
8	PWD/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT7896	150.00
9	PWD/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT7897	67.01
10	PWD/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT7892	29.49
11	PWD/2023-24/RD/WORK_INDENT10181	25.00

1.ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಕ್ವಾರೀಸ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **KPP Portal** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವಂತೆ. 2.ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ 1ರಲ್ಲಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **19.03.2024 (16.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ)**. 3.ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ 1ರಲ್ಲಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **20.03.2024 (16.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ)**. 4.ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ 1ರಲ್ಲಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **KPP Portal** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವಂತೆ. 5.ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ 1ರಲ್ಲಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:– **26.03.2024 (16.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ)**. 6.ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ 1ರಲ್ಲಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **27.03.2024 (16.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ)**. 7.ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ 1ರಲ್ಲಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **KPP Portal** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಇರುವಂತೆ.

NOTE: ಕಾರಣಾಂತರಗಳಿಂದ ಮೇಲೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು kppp Portal ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರು,

ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ವಿಜಯನಗರ/487/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2023–24 ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ಹೊಸಪೇಟೆ, ವಿಜಯನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.

ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, 1ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಹೋಡಿಯಂ ಬ್ಲಾಕ್, ವಿಶ್ವೇಶ್ವರಯ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–01.

ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 080–22867628, ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: dobcmbengaluruurban1@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಡಿಬಿಸಿ/ಬೆಂನ/ವನಿತಾ/ಸಿಆರ್–37/2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11.03.2024

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮಟ್ಟದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖಾ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಪೂರ್ವ ಮತ್ತು ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ನಂತರದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ನಿಲಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ಗ್ರೂಪ್–ಡಿ ನೌಕರರು, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮತ್ತು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಕಛೇರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ಡಾಟಾ ಎಂಟ್ರಿ ಆಪರೇಟರ್, ವಾಹನ ಚಾಲಕರು ಹಾಗೂ ಮೊರಾರ್ಜಿ ದೇಸಾಯಿ ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲಾ–ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಹೊರಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲು 2024–25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ.	ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ
1	ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ	ರೂ.497.00 ಕೋಟಿ	ರೂ.7.45 ಲಕ್ಷ

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜುಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11.03.2024 ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. e-portal ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12.05.2024 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದೆ.

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/4226/ಆಕಾರ್/2023–24

ಸಹಿ/– ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

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PERSONAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I, ANANDBHAIRAVI Kiran Prasad Haibatti W/O Kiran Prasad B Haibatti Residing at No.445/1,8th Main, P J Extension, Davanagere - 577002, do hereby declare that Anandbhairavi Jadhav, Anandbhairavi S Jadhav, Anandbhairavi Shankarrao Jadhav belong to me only and I wish and declare to consider my name as Anandbhairavi Kiran Prasad Haibatti for all legal documents, records and transactions in future, vide affidavit dated 29-01-2024 before Notary M. Prathaparudra, Davanagere

CHANGE OF NAME

I, M D Mustari, D/o Razack Sahib, R/a No.14, Agra Village Road, Near Seven Days Super Market, Babusapalya, Bengaluru-560043 have changed my name to Mubeen Dilshad Mustari vide affidavit dt: 12.03.2024 sworn before Notary Uday Kumar.K, B'luru.

I, FAYAZ Pasha Hameed, Residing at Near Jamiya Masjid, Chinnasandra, Chintamani-563125, Chikkaballapur District, today now at Bengaluru, have changed my name to Fayaz Pasha, vide affidavit dated: 13.03.2024 before notary M. Rajendra, Bengaluru.

I, M D Fiazun, D/o Razack Sahib, R/a No.14, Agra Village Road, Near Seven Days Super Market, Babusapalya, Bengaluru-560043 have changed my name to Mohammad Fiazun vide affidavit dt: 12.03.2024 sworn before Notary Uday Kumar.K, B'luru.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, DIVYA Mahesh, W/o Mahesh R/a No.238-A, Aradeshahalli, Devanahalli, Bangalore Rural-562110 have changed my name to Divya Hegde, vide affidavit dt: 12.03.2024 sworn before Notary R.Basavaraja, B'luru.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU
Notice to the Respondent No.17
Vide order dated:29.02.2024
R.F.A.No. 1381/2019

Smt. Kiran C. Narang & Others **...Appellants**
(By Sriyuths: Ravi Raghavan adv. for appellants (NOC given in R/o Appellant Nos. 1 to 5)
Akshaya B.M. and others advs. for appellants No.1 to 5 (NOC VK Filed but GPA not filed) **-V/s-**
Sri. Yella Reddy & Others **...Respondents**
(By Sriyuths: Bhargava D. Bhat adv. for R21, R22, R24 and R25,

To: Respondent:17. Sri. K. Raghunath S/o Ramachandraiah Residing at No. 13, 5th Main, 5th Cross, Sri. Shiridi Layout, Behind Krishna Community Hall, Ayyapanagar, K.R. Puram, Bengaluru-560038

Appeal from the Judgment & Decree dated: 25.01.2019 passed in OS.No.287/2011 on the file of the III Addl. Sr. Civil Judge, Bengaluru (R) Dist., Bengaluru.

Notice is hereby given to you to appear in this court either in person or through Counsel duly instructed or through some one authorized by law, to act for you in the above appeal on 16.04.2024 in case you intend to contest the appeal. If you fail to appear, the same will be dealt with, heard and decided in your absence.

Issued under my hand and the seal of this court, this the 29TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2024.

BY ORDER OF THE COURT,
Sd/- ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LVI ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-57)
O.S NO. 5837/2023

BETWEEN :
M/s ICICI Bank Limited having its registered office at Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007, having its head office at and Zonal office at 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru- 560 068 through its Authorised representative
Mr. Harish E. ...Plaintiff
AND :
Mr. T. Vishwanathan ...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant
Mr. T. Vishwanathan,
S/o. Thandavan,
Aged About 45 Years,
R/at. No.11, Victoria Road, Corporation Quatres, Near Hydrabhad Biriyani, Bangalore- 560 047.

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs. 4,64,413.70/-** along with interest at the rate of **24% P.A.** against you, and you are summoned to appear before the **LVI Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge** at **Bengaluru (C.C.H.-57),** in person or by a pleader, on the day of **05/04/2024** at **11:00 A.M.** to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the **6th day of March, 2024**

By Order of The Court
Assistant Registrar
Hon'ble City Civil Court Bangalore

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners, Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner 'A' 3, Queens Road, Bengaluru-01.

IN THE COURT OF THE LVI ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-57)
O.S No. 5847/2023

• BETWEEN :
M/s ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007, having its head office at and Zonal office at 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru- 560 068 through its Authorised representative
Mr. Harish E.
...Plaintiff
AND :
Mr. R. Raveendra
...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant :
Mr. R. Raveendra, S/o. Ramappa, Aged About 39 Years, R/at. No. 36, 4th Cross, Sarathinivasa 1st Floor, Vadarapalya, N R Archalli Arch, Uttarahalli Hobli, Subramanyapura Post, Near Samaya Tiles, Bangalore- 560 061

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs. 7,86,451.55/-** along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LVI Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru **(C.C.H-57),** in person or by a pleader, on the day of **05/04/2024** at **11:00 A.M** to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the **6th day of March, 2024.**

By Order Of The Court
Assistans Registrar,
Hon'ble City Civil Court, Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners, Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', 3, Queens Road, Bengaluru- 01.

Shivamogga City Corporation, Shivamogga

No: ಶಿಮನಪಾಶಿ:ಆವಿ:ಪಿ.ಆರ್:01/2023–24 **Date: 12.03.2024**

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e- Procurement portal)

Short-term Tenders have been invited in Two-cover system as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Rules 1999-2000 and Act 2000 and as per standard tender document procedure to procure the following services through KPP Portal in the limits of Shivamogga City Corporation. The bidders who are interested in participating through Karnataka Public procurement tender can obtain the details in website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Details : Trailormade garbage handling vehicle wash system, full body including with under chasis 1 wash, overhead spray archs, waste water recyling plant, high pressure water filter system including associated civil works etc. Apprx. Amount (Rs in lakhs) : **210.00 Lakhs,** EMD amount : **Rs. 3,15,000.00,** Grants : **Swachh Bharat Mission (1.0) Grants.**

1.The date of commencement of tender through Karnataka Public Procurement portal: From **13.03.2024.**

2. Pre-bid meeting date: **27.03.2024 at 11.30 A M.**

3. The last date for submission of tender through KPP portal : **12.04.2024 upto 5.00 P M**

4. Date of opening of tender bid through KPP portal : As per e-portal.

5.More details can be had from KPP portal and other details from this office during office hours..

6. Cover : **Two Cover**

Note: Any changes/corrigendum will be intimated through e-procurement portal only.

DIPR/SMG/No-47-03/zenkar/2023-24

Sd/-
Asst. Executive Engineer (Environment)
Shivamogga City Corporation, Shivamogga

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala - 147001.
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813: Website: www.pspcl.in
(Contact No. 96461-18774)

Tender Enquiry no. MQP-234/2023-24/PR Dated: 13.03.2024

CE/Metering, PSPCL, C-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for procurement of 80,000 no. 1-in-1 Metal Boxes(Cabinets) for incorporating Single Phase Energy Meters. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 13.03.2024 (03:00 PM onwards).

Note: Corrigendum and amendments, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

C 237/24 **76155/12/2839/2023/33652**

Er. Bijoy Chandra Tripathy
Chief General Manager (P&C)

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No. HO/ P&C/ EST/ E-2271/01/2023/ 8294, Dated.11.03.2024

Invitation for Bids

BID IDENTIFICATION NO: P&C/EST/E- 216/ 2023-24

Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) invites proposals from reputed and experienced Agencies/ Firms / Companies for the work "Site investigation, Concept Development based on statutory norms, Architectural Drawings, Technical Drawings (Structural, PH, MEP, HVAC), Site Development, Procurement and Execution of Workers' Hostel at Balianta in Khorda, Odisha. (on Turnkey basis)" till handover of the project including Operation and Maintenance for 5 Years"*

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Processing Fee	Period of completion	Operation and Maintenance period	Class of contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	"Site investigation, concept Development based on statutory norms, Architectural Drawings, Technical Drawings (Structural, PH, MEP, HVAC), Site Development, Procurement and Execution of Workers'Hostel at Balianta in Khorda, Odisha on Turnkey basis)" till handover of the project including Operation and Maintenance for 5 Years"*	Rs. 11,800/- (Online)	30(Thirty) Calendar Months	5 Years	"Super"Class Contractors of PWD & Equivalent Class of other Departments

*Note-I :- Earnest Money Deposit will be applicable as per prevailing circular of Govt. of Odisha at the time of bidding.

The Bid document comprising of detailed eligibility criteria, scope of the work, land details, Instruction to bidders etc. can be downloaded from the web-site www.tendersodisha.gov.in from **5PM of Dt. 21.03.2024 to 22.04.2024.**

Sd/- Chief General Manager (P&C)

CAD - 4617 OIPR - 14003/11/0473/2324

Govt of Karnataka
O/o Executive Engineer, PWD, Udupi Division Udupi - 576101.
C.No: (0820) 2531802

No.PWD:UDN:NIT-30: 2023-24: AE-2 Dated: 13.03.2024

Short Term Tender

It is here by notified for the information of intending registered contractor, of class - III & above in Karnataka PWD, through e-portal "kppp.karnataka.gov.in" as per Karnataka tranperency in public procurement act 2023, as per specified terms & condition notified there in. The Last date for submission of tender is 21.03.2024 upto 5.30PM through E-procurement portal "kppp.karnataka.gov.in" for one road work costing Rs.197.18 Lakhs (including GST) - (Indent No. 10518)

Executive Engineer
Public Works Department, Udupi Division Udupi

Government of Karnataka
Executive Engineer,
RDW&S, Division, Mysore
Short Term Tender Notification No: 36/2023-24
Date: 07-03-2024

Short term tender notification is as below

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka Items rate tenders under **DBOT** Standard Bid documents (Two cover system) has been called for 2 (New MVS) work (Estimate cost Rs.5580.00 & 7725.00 Lakhs) of Mysuru & T Narasipura Taluk under the Head of Account: 2215 Jal Jeevan Mission. Tender is been invited as per Karnataka transparency Act G.O.No.FD9 PCL 2004 Dt. 06.08.2005 and as per recent amendments, Date of uploading Tender forms under e-procurement Date: 11.03.2024 11:00 AM onwards, Last Date for submitting the filled Tender forms is 26.03.2024 up to 4:00 PM, Opening of Technical bid 27.

Modernised Railway for Viksit Bharat
Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee

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Affordable Tourism

Bharat Gaurav Trains: • Since Feb 2023, more than 1 lakh passengers have been given the divine experience of tourism and pilgrimage at affordable prices

• Based on "Dekho Apna Desh" motto, these trains are being operated by **IRCTC** on various theme based circuits viz. Shri Ramayana Yatra, Jain Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Garvi Gujarat, Shri Jagannath Puri Yatra, Pravasi Bhartiya Tours, North-East Circuit etc.

Aastha Trains: More than 4.5 lakh pilgrims across the country facilitated to visit Ayodhya

More than 10000 plus delegates/students facilitated in Kashi Tamil Sangamam, Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam and Yuva Sangam Tours focusing on Cultural Confluence and Academic Exchanges

Internet Ticketing - Digital India

4 out of every 5 passengers are enjoying the ease of ticket booking by utilising services of **IRCTC**

Capacity of **IRCTC's** portal enhanced 14 times to cater to peak time ticket booking demand

Innovative Solution for 24x7 customer support through "Ask Disha" chatbot by **IRCTC**

Enabling "On the Go" ticket booking facility by mobile based platforms

Provision of online services by **IRCTC** for booking retiring rooms, hotels, buses, flights, lounges, luxury trains and **Kedarnath Heliyatra**

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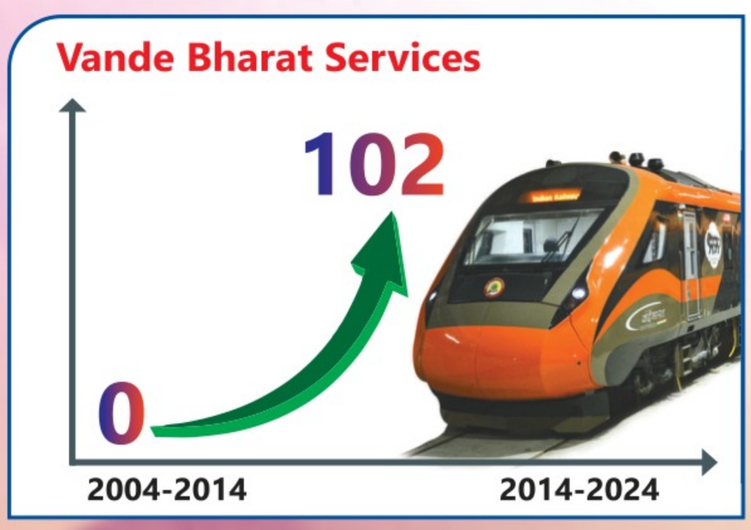
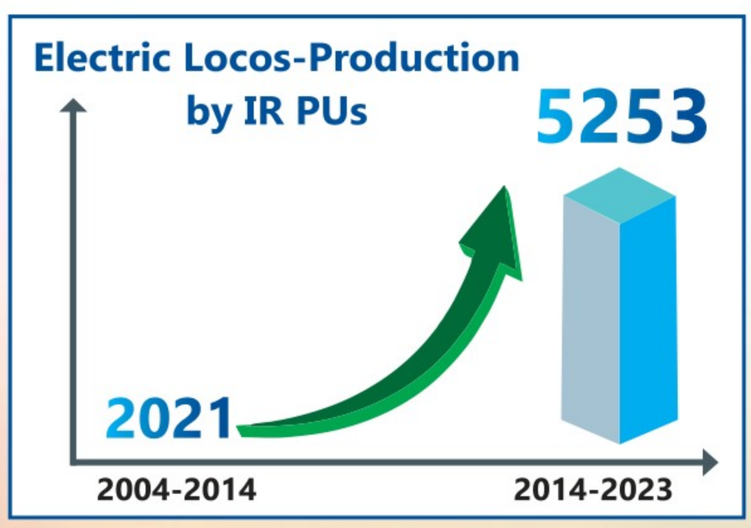
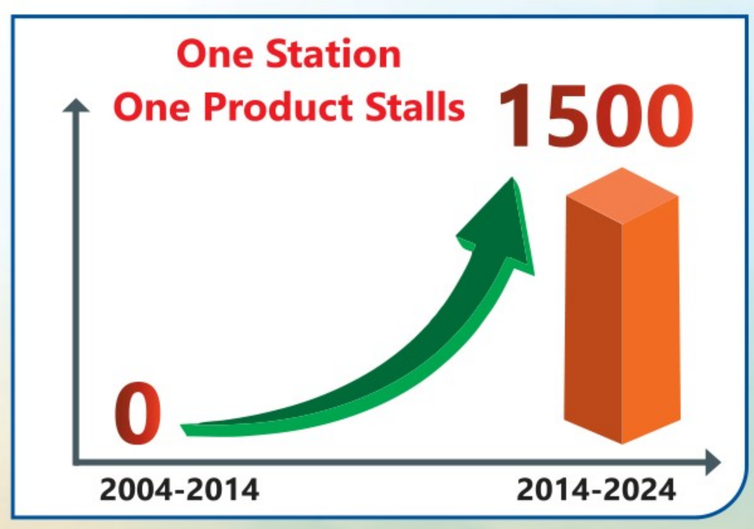
During Covid Pandemic more than 21 lakh stranded people were served meals from **IRCTC** designated base kitchens through collaboration with state, railways and several NGOs

Ensuring hygienic, good quality and affordable potable water to passengers by engaging state-of-the-art technology at Rail Neer Plants

Market Cap of IRCTC has risen from INR 11,657 crores on the date of listing (14.10.2019) to INR 73,652 crores (as on 12.03.2024) registering a 532% increase, thus enhancing investor's wealth

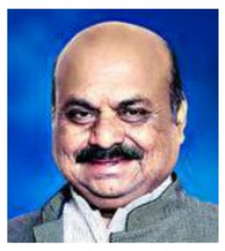






From Page One

Yaduveer and Bommai get BJP ticket


Basavaraj Bommai

V. Somanna

Shobha Karandlaje

Former Minister V. Somanna has been given ticket from Tumakuru while another former Minister B. Sriramulu has been fielded from Ballari. Mr. Yediyurappa's son B.Y. Raghavendra has been renominated from Shivamogga, while Union Ministers Pralhad Joshi and Bhagwant Khuba have been renominated from Dharwad and Bidar seats, respectively.

Rebellion in ranks

However, the announcement of the list of candidates has also posed the threat of rebellion, targeted against Mr. Yediyurappa, as the party has denied the ticket to K.E. Kanthesh, son of its veteran leader and OBC face K.S. Eshwarappa, who was keen to make a poll debut from Haveri. The party has fielded Mr. Bommai from here. Mr. Eshwarappa's supporters have called for a meeting on Friday to decide the next course of action, including taking on Mr. Raghavendra in Shivamogga as an Independent candidate.

The party is yet to announce the candidate for Mandya, which has turned out to be tricky, with both its ally JD(S) and Independent MP Sumalatha Ambareesh showing keen interest in the seat.

Decision pending

Similarly, the party has kept its decision pending on the Uttara Kannada seat where its incumbent MP Anantkumar Hegde has been embarrassing it by issuing controversial statements related to changing the Constitution. The party has given the ticket from Davangere to Gayathri Siddeshwar, wife of incumbent MP G.M. Siddeshwar.

In Chamarajanagar reserved constituency, where the two sons-in-law of incumbent MP V. Sreenivas Prasad were competing with each other to get the ticket, the party has chosen the former legislator S. Balaraj.

List of BJP candidates for 20 LS constituencies in State announced on Wednesday

Chikkodi – Annasaheb Jolle, **Bagalkot** – P.C. Gaddigoudar, **Vijayapura (SC)** – Ramesh Jigajinagi, **Kalaburagi (SC)** – Umesh G. Jadhav, **Bidar** – Bhagwanth Khuba, **Koppal** – Basavaraj Kyavator, **Ballari (ST)** – B. Sriramulu, **Haveri** – Basavaraj Bommai, **Dharwad** – Pralhad Joshi, **Davangere** – Gayathri Siddeshwar, **Shivamogga** – B.Y. Raghavendra, **Udupi-Chikkamagaluru** – Kota Srinivas Poojary, **Dakshina Kannada** – Capt. Brijesh Chowta, **Tumakuru** – V. Somanna, **Mysuru** – Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, **Chamarajanagar (SC)** – S. Balaraj, **Bengaluru Rural** – C.N. Manunath, **Bengaluru North** – Shobha Karandlaje, **Bengaluru Central** – P.C. Mohan, and **Bengaluru South** – Tejasvi Surya

LS polls: KSE blames BSY for son being denied BJP ticket

The former Minister said he would hold a meeting with well-wishers before deciding his next step

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

K.S. Eshwarappa

Making his displeasure known and sending out feelers of potential rebellion, senior BJP leader K.S. Eshwarappa squarely blamed former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa for his son K.E. Kantesh being denied BJP ticket from Haveri to contest the Lok Sabha elections. He has decided to hold a meeting with his well-wishers in Shivamogga on March 15 before deciding on his next step.

The BJP has chosen to field former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai for the Haveri Lok Sabha seat. A visibly upset Mr. Eshwarappa, speaking to the media, claimed Mr. Bommai was being "forced" to contest from Haveri. "Mr. Bommai himself had recommended my son's name for Haveri. He had refused to contest the seat as he is a sitting MLA and a former Chief Minister. But why he is being forced to contest?" he sought to know.

Speaking to *The Hindu* over phone, Mr. Eshwarappa said that Mr. Yediyurappa had assured his son of the party ticket and also promised that he would campaign for his victory. "Mr. Yediyurappa has not kept his promise," he said.

'Targeting loyalists'

Taking the issue beyond his son's case, he pointed to C.T. Ravi, Nalin Kumar Kateel, and Pratap Simha too being disappointed. "Many in the party are of the opinion that Mr. Yediyurappa has been targeting leaders who are loyal to the party and speak for the Hindutva. At the moment, I am not revealing my decisions. I will hold a meeting with well-wishers of the party and seniors on Friday," he said.

When asked if he would contest as Independent candidate in Shivamogga Lok Sabha constituency against Mr. Yediyurappa's son B.Y. Raghavendra, Mr. Eshwarappa said he would decide on this after the meeting on Friday.

Further, Mr. Eshwarappa said that MP Radha Mohan Das Agarwal called him over phone and told him that Mr. Kantesh would be fielded in the elections for Legislative Council (Graduates' Constituency). "I have not promised him anything," he said.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Eshwarappa said he had been receiving phone calls from well-wishers and leaders of backward classes for the past few days. Many had been suggesting he contest for the Shivamogga Lok Sabha constituency as an Independent candidate, he said.

Will return to party work, says Kateel

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Welcoming the BJP's decision to field BJP State secretary Brijesh Chowta from Dakshina Kannada, outgoing MP Nalin Kumar Kateel said in Mangaluru on Wednesday that he will return to party work.

Talking to reporters, Mr. Kateel said he will work with party workers for the victory of Mr. Chowta and realise the objective of getting Narendra Modi back as the Prime Minister for the third term. "I won this seat (in 2019) with lead of more than 2.75 lakh. We will ensure Mr. Chowta wins the seat by a margin of more than 3 lakh votes," he said.

Asked whether he was disappointed, Mr. Kateel said: "There is no question of disappointment. I am a committed party worker and I honour their decision to field Mr. Chowta," he said. Mr. Kateel told *The Hindu* that the decision of the party did not come as a surprise.

Modi to kickstart BJP campaign by addressing conventions in Kalaburagi and Shivamogga

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to kickstart the BJP's formal campaign in Karnataka for the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls by addressing public conventions on March 16 and 18, in Kalaburagi and Shivamogga, respectively. This comes close on the heels of the party announcing the first list of 20 candidates from Karnataka.

The Prime Minister's campaign beginning from Kalaburagi is being seen as an aggressive message to the Congress as it is the home district of AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge.

Mr. Modi will address a convention in NV Playgrounds of Kalaburagi and at Allamaprabhu playgrounds in Shivamogga, the home district of veteran leader B.S. Yediyurappa.

The possibility of a rebellion by disappointed BJP ticket aspirants has turned out to be a tricky issue for party leaders this time in Shivamogga, as the party has denied ticket to Kantesh, son of veteran leader K.S. Eshwarappa, from Haveri. It remains to be seen how the party will pacify Mr. Eshwarappa, a prominent leader in Shivamogga, before the Prime Minister's visit to the city.

In addition to the Prime Minister, other prominent BJP leaders, including Home Minister Amit Shah, party president J.P. Nadda, and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will address public conventions at different regions of the State. BJP State general secretary and former Minister V. Sunil Kumar told media persons in Bengaluru on Wednesday that all the 28 Lok Sabha seats in Karnataka had been divided into eight clusters by the party organisation to prepare for the polls. Various Central leaders had already visited these clusters, he said, referring to the visit of Mr. Shah to Mysuru, Mr. Nadda to Belagavi, Devendra Fadnavis to Mangaluru, and Shivaraj Singh Chauhan to Kalaburagi.

While meetings of party workers and well-wishers had been held in these clusters as part of the first phase of poll preparations, the second phase that would begin with the visit of Mr. Modi will see organising bigger events like public conventions, he noted.

BJP's 'royal' choice in Mysuru pushes Simha out of contest

Supporters of Pratap Simha, MP, holding a demonstration near Hinkal flyover in Mysuru on Wednesday. M.A. SRIRAM

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Even though sitting MP Pratap Simha was hoping for the BJP renomination for a third time and campaigned hard for it, the party's Central leadership on Wednesday chose Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar as its candidate for Mysuru Lok Sabha constituency.

Taking to X minutes after the BJP candidates' list was announced on Wednesday evening, Mr. Simha congratulated Mr. Yaduveer and expressed his readiness to start campaigning for the elections. "Congratulations to Maharaja Sri Yaduveer," he said. The subdued response comes a day after he had launched a sarcastic attack on Mr. Yaduveer and said that if the BJP top brass intends to field the scion of the erstwhile royal family then it would "underline the beauty of democracy" as the royals will have to mingle with commoners.

Though Mr. Yaduveer, aged about 32, is entering the poll fray for the first time, politics is not new for the erstwhile royal family as the late Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wadiyar had entered the poll fray on six occasions and was elected to the Lok Sabha on four occasions, but as a Congress candidate. Mr. Yaduveer, who is also the great grandson Jayachamarajendra Wadiyar, was adopted by Pramoda Devi, wife of Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wadiyar, as the heir of Wadiyar dynasty in 2015.

The announcement of Mr. Yaduveer as the BJP candidate was preceded by a demonstration by supporters of Mr. Simha, who demanded the sitting MP's renomination. However, Mr. Simha ruled out the possibility of rebelling against the party and entering the poll fray as an Independent.

Mr. Yaduveer's candidature for Mysuru Lok Sabha constituency, however, has taken many people by surprise. For, there was little indication about the same from the erstwhile royal family. However, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, after participating in the Yoga Day celebrations at Mysuru palace in June 2022, had met the erstwhile royals, including Pramoda Devi and Yaduveer, over breakfast at the palace.

Earlier setback

During the last Assembly elections, the BJP was able to retain only Krishnaraja Assembly segment in Mysuru Lok Sabha constituency. The party lost not only the two Assembly segments in Kodagu - Madikeri and Virajpet - but also Chamaraja Assembly segment in Mysuru that it had won in 2018 polls. Mr. Simha, however, focussed his energies on BJP candidate V. Somanna in Varuna Assembly constituency, which is part of neighbouring Chamarajanagar Lok Sabha constituency.

Congress second list likely to be announced tomorrow; relatives of Ministers, leaders may figure in it

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sowmya Reddy, daughter of Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy; (right) Sunil Bose, son of Social Welfare Minister H.C. Mahadevappa

Sons, daughters, and relatives of some Ministers and leaders are expected to get Congress ticket to contest the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections in Karnataka in the party's second list of candidates which is likely to be announced on Friday.

The second list of candidates of the Congress in 21 Lok Sabha seats in the State is expected to be released after a meeting of the party's central election committee in Delhi on March 14 and 15. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and KPCC president and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar are expected to attend the meeting presided by AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge.

First list

In the first list last week, the party had announced candidates in seven constituencies.

The Congress is finding it tough to find winnable candidates in the three constituencies in Bengaluru, sources said. The party's Central leaders have been putting pressure on Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy to field his daughter and former MLA Sowmya Reddy in Bengaluru South. Sources said the father-daughter held a series of meetings with leaders of Assembly constituencies in Bengaluru South on Wednesday.

Similarly, the Congress leaders reportedly asked Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi to field his daughter Priyanka from Chikodi constituency and Minister for Women and Child Development Lakshmi Hebbalkar to field her son Mrinal from Belagavi constituency.

Speaking to reporters, Social Welfare Minister H.C. Mahadevappa said he was not interested in contesting the election from Chamarajanagar and demanded ticket for his son Sunil Bose.

The party has denied ticket thrice in the past to Mr. Bose and the same has been conveyed to the Central leaders of the party, he said.

In Kalaburagi, the party has left the choice to Mr. Mallikarjun Kharge. Mr. Kharge's son-in-law Radhakrishna Doddamani has emerged as the front-runner for ticket to contest. The constituency is the home turf of the party's president. The 81-year-old Kharge had won from Gulbarga (Kalaburagi) Lok Sabha segment twice but lost the 2019 polls.

In Davangere too, Minister for Mines and Geology S.S. Mallikarjun's wife Prabha Mallikarjun, daughter-in-law of party veteran Shamanur Shivashankarappa, is said to be the party's top choice. Already, D.K. Suresh, Mr. Shivakumar's brother, has been given ticket to contest from Bengaluru Rural constituency.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Fond Remembrance

DEEPA KRISHNAN
14 - 03 - 2001

Just because you cannot see me
Does not mean I am not there
Just because I am in heaven
Does not mean
I don't care
I often see you crying
You often say my name
I want to hold you tight
I want to ease your pain
But one day we will meet again
But only when the time is right
When you step out of the darkness
I will be standing in the light
We think of you especially today
With a lot of love and adoration
Dear sweet Deepu

Sarala, Krishnan, Rajiv, Divya and Shyam

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981,
Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575,
from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Online booking: **www.thehinduads.com**
DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

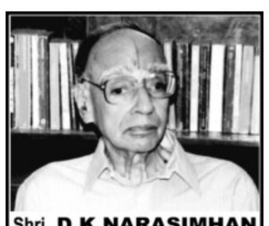
DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

1ST ANNIVERSARY

16.11.1928 - 13.03.2023
Mrs. Padmini Balachandran
W/o (Late) Prof. V.K.Balachandran

Fondly remembered by
Smt Radhika Rajasenan,
Dr C Rajasenan,
Dr. Shobhana Rajasenan
Vivek Rajasenan
Vikram Vadakkekurputh

DEATH



Shri. **D K NARASIMHAN**
26.3.1926 – 12.3.2024
S/o Late Shri D K Varadachari, (Advocate, Chengalpattu.)
(Ex-Director General, Videsh Sanchar Nigam, Mumbai; Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai; Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation, London; International Telecommunication Union, Geneva)
Attained Aacharyan Thiruvadi.
Mourned by Family and Friends.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION AND WATER SUPPLY DEPARTMENT
Directorate of Municipal Administration, Chennai-600 028.
Roc.No.7557/2024/SS1 — **E-TENDER NOTICE** — Dated : 13.03.2024

Online tenders are invited by the Director of Municipal Administration, towards **Procurement of Satellite Imageries for 10 cities under Directorate of Municipal Administration, Tamil Nadu.**

The tender document (RFP) can be downloaded at free of cost from **https://tntenders.gov.in/** from **18.03.2024, 16.00 hrs.**

Pre-bid meeting is scheduled online on **25.03.2024** at **11.30 hrs through video conference (VC)** by DMA and the link for the VC can be referred in the RFP.

EMD for an amount of Rs.1,00,000/- has to be paid through online mode. Last date and time for online submission of bids through e-Tendering website **https://tntenders.gov.in/** is **30.04.2024** upto **16.00 hrs**. Technical Bid shall be opened online on **30.04.2024** at **16.30 hrs.** Bidders are advised to participate in the pre-bid meeting scheduled by **Director of Municipal Administration.**

Director of Municipal Administration, Chennai-600 028.

DIPR/ 1599 /TENDER/2024

WATCO
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, WATCO
Ground Floor, Unnati Bhawan, H.B.Colony, Satyanagar, Bhubaneswar-751007, Odisha, India
Telefax : - +91-674-2391444 ; E-mail – ceowatcoodisha@gmail.com; md@watcoodisha.in
INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) - Bid Identification No.WATCO(W)-54/2023-24 Dtd. 07.03.2024
WATCO No. 1688, Date : 07.03.2024

1.	Name of the work	: "External power supply to raw water and clear water plant Mundali."
2.	Estimated Cost	: Rs.1200.00 Lakh
3.	Period of Completion	: 03 (Three) Months
4.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the Portal.	: From 11.00 AM of Dt.28.03.2024 to 5.00 PM of 11.04.2024
5.	Last date/time of receipt of bids in the portal	: 5.00 PM of 11.04.2024.
6.	Date & Time of opening of technical bids	: 12.30 PM of 12.04.2024
7.	Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	: CEO, WATCO E-Mail : ceowatcoodisha@gmail.com

8. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only.
Further details can be seen from the web site www.tendersodisha.gov.in

CEO, WATCO
C-1931 : OIPR-13194/11/0098/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA - DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER,
SUBARNAREKHA & BUDHABALANGA BASIN, AT/PO:- LAXMIPOSI, DIST:-MAYURBHANJ
Mail Id :- cebmsbb2019@gmail.com
Government of Odisha "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No.- 59 /23-24 of CEBM, SBB, Laxmiposi

1.	Name of Work	A. Bank Protection to left bank of River Dubdubi Near village Kasafal Jeti. B. Restoration and Protection to left bank of river Subarnarekha near village Gobarghata. C. Restoration and Protection to left bank of river Subarnarekha near village Jamalpur and Sanroutpada.
2.	Estimated Cost	A. Rs.581.80 Lakhs B. Rs.564.77 Lakhs C. Rs. 559.80 Lakhs
3.	Bid Security / EMD	A. Rs.5,81,900/- ; B. Rs.5,64,800/- ; C. Rs.5,59,900/-
4.	Period of Completion	12 (Twelve) Calendar Months
5.	Class of Contractor	"A" Class Only.
6.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	14.03.2024 at 10.00 AM
7.	Last date / time for receipt of bid in the portal	05.04.2024 up to 5.00 PM
8.	Date of Opening of bid	06.04.2024 at 11.00 A.M.
9.	Name & Address of the O.I.T.	Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, 0/0 the CE&BM, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal "https://tendersodisha.gov.in".
Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj
A-1721 : OIPR-32429/11/0025/2324

How the never-say-die entrepreneurial spirit has thrived in Bengaluru

Amidst a thriving start-up culture in Bengaluru, Sriram Devatha's book *Brandgaluru-Made in Bengaluru,* talks about four iconic brands that have originated in the city

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

Sriram Devatha still remembers how Naveen Pishe, of P.N. Rao Fine Suits fame, suddenly asked him to stand up and put his legs together, mid-conversation. "He (Pishe) told me that I was not bowlegged... that 90% of this country is," says Devatha, the author of *Brandgaluru-Made in Bengaluru,* a book about four iconic brands that have originated in the city.

He was especially struck by Pishe's observation since the brand -- one of the four featured in the book -- made suits and they needed to understand human anatomy. "I found that interesting," says Devatha, Consulting Editor, YourStory, who was part of a recent conversation about his book held at Atta Galatta, Indiranagar. "You think a suitmaker will talk fabric, etc. But he has a solid sense of anatomy."

There are many delightful moments like this one, gleaned from talking to the people behind these four brands, -- P.N. Rao, William Penn, Judge Press and Radel Electronics -- that still linger in his mind. Take, for instance, how Nikhil Rajan, who founded stationery brand William Penn in 2002, spoke about his family backing his venture, a rare admission in the entrepreneurial ecosystem that continues to romanticise the lone wolf myth. "That was an interesting personality," he says.

Another interesting story was of how Judge Press, one of the city's oldest printing presses, decided to turn a pizzeria and lodge on Residency Road into a printing press.

The most interesting insights came from conversations with the founders or their descendants of these businesses, he says. "That gave me a sense of who they are, and what is important to them," he adds.

Practical advice

But Devatha's book is more than simply a collection of profiles of the brands and their founders. It also brings in layers of Bengaluru's history, shaped by colonisation, migration, invasion, commerce, disease, wars, technology, music, and much more.

"One of the nice things about writing microhistory is that you can hitch on what is happening. It gives you a wonderful contrast between the micro and macro," he says, pointing out that history tends to focus on larger-than-life figures. "But what was an average Joe thinking at that time?" he says, adding that individual histories can collectively validate what was happening at a macro level, a sense of how society lived, and how the dominant narrative adds up.

During racing season

He uses the example of P.N. Rao to illustrate how large events can have a profound impact on an everyday person's life. When P.N. Rao started his haberdashery in 1923, his target customer quickly became the British memsahib, who needed a constant supply of dresses during the racing season at the Turf Club. "A lot of the money and commerce happened in the Cantonment. It was the hub of activity," says Devatha.

The organisation, which has been around for a century, has had to pivot multiple times to stay relevant, something he has hinted at in the book. "Look at the DNA of the brand," he says, pointing out that while it started off trying to find its feet in an India that was ravaged by the empire, it also managed to survive the Second World War, the post-Independence uncertainty, globalisation and so much more. "It gives you a good sense of how businesses had to orient themselves," says Devatha, who believes that the book can also offer practical life lessons for entrepreneurs.

Devatha, a sound engineer by profession, who also holds a Master's in acoustics, credits his grandfather for kickstarting his writing journey. "He was a B.Com graduate but was far more than that," says Devatha, who recalls long conversations with his grandfather that would cover myriad topics from economic policy, government and geopolitics to socio-economic ideologies and Vedanta philosophy. "The canvas was so huge. There was a wonderful breadth to that sort of ideas that he gave me," he believes.

This early influence led to him developing a lifelong reading habit. "I just picked up whatever I liked and read it. If that book made me ask questions, I found another book to answer them. That is how it went," he says. When his grandfather passed away, he began writing. "It was an emotional moment, and one of the ways it came out was writing about how he handled some financial challenges my family had to go through," says Devatha, admitting that this experience made him think more seriously about writing, even going on to take some poetry classes. "That was the initial bit, and I just followed it."

This is his third book – his first, *Soaked Hues*, is a book of poems, while his second, *Indogene,* is a collection of short stories – and he intends it to be part of a series that documents the history and evolution of several Bengaluru-based businesses. "I wanted to demonstrate that there was (always) a vibrant entrepreneurial culture here which cuts across segments," says Devatha, a third generation Bengalurean.

According to him, the idea that the whole Bengaluru story happened only in 2000 isn't strictly true. " We just think it is the weather that brought people here. (But) nothing happens in a vacuum," he believes, pointing out that IISc was created in this city only because the Maharaja was enlightened and gave those 200 acres. "I would argue that many things came because of what the previous government and Mysore Maharaja put in place...IT was the latest avatar of it," says Devatha, who firmly believes that the city became an important centre for start-ups, the life sciences and aerotechnology, among others, because of already-existing resources.

Disparate brands

So, what went into selecting these four brands? Partly because they were so disparate, he says, admitting that he is someone who likes the breadth of things. "I really wanted to capture the flavour, in terms of diversity of segments itself," says Devatha, listing them: garments, writing instruments, music and a printing press. "There were some nice contrasts. The idea was to give a mix (of brands) which are definitely interesting (and) can offer lessons," he says.

And coming from a family of entrepreneurs himself, what were his own learnings? "I think one of the big themes I took away was the format of business," he says. The start-up culture is a fast-paced one where entrepreneurs get vast sums of money overnight and must figure out things like product-market fit or minimal viable product in six months to a year. "It is all so sped up," he says, comparing this to a legacy brand like P.N. Rao, which took years to understand who their core customer was. "I am more sceptical about the start-up format now. Of course, you will have unicorns, but (in general) these legacy companies last while start-ups come and go," he says.

On the other hand, the nimbleness and adaptability of start-ups could offer lessons to legacy brands too, he believes. "The interplay between legacy businesses and start-ups in the way they are structured, financed, strengths and weaknesses has been an interesting thing for me," he says.

Devatha's book is more than simply a collection of profiles of the brands and their founders. It also brings in layers of Bengaluru's history.

Printing machine from Judge Press. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

P.N. Rao Fine Suits store. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

William Penn store.

Sriram Devatha

Earth Hour 2024

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Earth Hour, a grassroots environmental campaign, will be celebrated across the globe on March 23, 8:30 p.m. onwards. Earth Hour 2024 aims to create the 'biggest hour for Earth', stressing the collective power of individuals and communities in tackling climate and nature loss challenges.

According to the release, the 'Goodwill Ambassadors for Earth Hour India' will be lending their support by giving an hour for Earth, spending 60 minutes doing something positive for our planet. Their actions will inspire others to join the movement and make the Biggest Hour for Earth even bigger this year.

It is a reminder that environmentalism can be a positive force for change. Earth Hour fosters a global community that transcends boundaries, promoting a mindset shift toward sustainability.

Dia Mirza and Dulquer Salmaan have joined this year's campaign to inspire others to commit an hour to sustainable actions.

Dia Mirza said, "This year, I will switch off all lights and electronic gadgets for an hour."

Teen Indie Film Awards in Bengaluru: 300 films from 30 countries over four days

Teen Indie Film Awards (TIFA) 2024, organised by RV University students, will be from March 14 to 17

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru is set to host the Teen Indie Film Awards (TIFA) 2024 from March 14 to 17, an event organised by the students of R.V. University. This year marks the inclusion of Australia, with representatives from the Australian Consulate-General in Bengaluru, Hilary McGeachy, Consul General, and Hyung Min Kim, Deputy Consul General, enhancing the international aspect of the festival.

The event will showcase 14 films from Australia, including the opening film, *The Song Keepers*, directed by Naina Sen. TIFA 2024 aims to highlight the diversity of storytelling through its selection of films and foster cultural exchange and collaboration between India and Australia.

300 submissions

With over 300 submissions from six continents, TIFA has expanded significantly since its inception, becoming a notable platform for teenage and young adult filmmakers globally. The festival includes panel discussions on current themes in cinema, film-themed book launches, and masterclasses by industry professionals.

R.V. University officials, including YSR Murthy, Vice Chancellor, and Piyush Roy, Dean, School of Film, Media and Creative Arts, have noted the festival's growth and its role in fostering interdisciplinary collaboration. Students from various departments have contributed to the organisation of the event, emphasising its educational and inclusive approach.

N. Vidya Shankar, festival director of the Bangalore International Film Festival and the chief guest for TIFA 2024, commenting on the role of cinema in society, says, "The contemporary world is better represented and understood through cinema than any other medium. Unlike literature, which facilitates contemplation, cinema allows for immediate expression and understanding of a society's core issues."

Film screening at R.V. University. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Scarcity of film schools

He also highlighted the scarcity of film schools in India and the importance of platforms like TIFA in showcasing young filmmakers' work to a global audience, suggesting that such initiatives are crucial for the development of a new generation of storytellers.

The festival will feature more than 300 films from 30 countries over four days, including masterclasses, film discussions, and other activities with 25 speakers. Established by the School of Film, Media, and Creative Arts at R.V. University, TIFA seeks to nurture emerging filmmakers and promote cross-cultural understanding through cinema. The jury members include film critic Rahul Desai, Nagaland actor-director Tiakumzuk Aier, Ian Fenton, who is a senior lecturer at Teesside University, U.K.

Documentary filmmaker Tarini Manchanda, visual development artist Rupali Gatti, director and editor Rahul Rawail, climate fiction writer Evan Tims are among the speakers list.

Evolution of cinema

TIFA 2024 not only aims to showcase young filmmaking talent but also to serve as a forum for discussing the impact and evolution of cinema in today's world.

The event's schedule and venues vary, with activities planned across different locations in Bengaluru. Registration for delegate passes is available online, with on-spot registrations also accepted.

For more information and registration details, visit rvu.edu.in/tifa-2024

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 14, 1974

Appeal Against Krishna Award: Karnataka Plan

Bangalore, March 13: The Public works Minister H.M. Channabasappa assured the Karnataka Assembly to-day that the Government would take all steps permissible under law to safeguard the interests of the State in regard to the Krishna waters.

Answering a spate of questions on the award of Krishna water Tribunal, the Minister said that the award had affected the interests of the State in many ways. The technical experts and the legal pundits were examining the various aspects of the award and the State Government would act "quickly" and expeditiously and at the appropriate time. The Minister did not spell out the course of action but pointed out that there were many issues involved.

Alleged Fraud in Supply of Seed Potato

Bangalore, March 13: A person said to be a member of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee and an office bearer of the backward class cell of the party was recently arrested by the Simla police in connection with the alleged potato seed fraud, the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Chandrasekhar told newsmen to-day.

The Simla police apprehended the man in the city and took him along with them for questioning. Reviewing the crime situation in Bangalore, Mr. Chandrasekhar said that a 40-year-old man of Bombay who was allegedly lifting valuables from locked cars from different parts of the city was held by the Commercial Street police recently.

CITYBEATS

Great Scots!

MARCH 17
DeadAnt Live unveils Scottish comedian Daniel Sloss' eight-city tour in India. Titled *Daniel Sloss - Can't,* the comedian will share the stage with Kai Humphries as part of DeadAnt Live's new initiative called,'The Loop'.
At St John's College Auditorium, 2.30pm and 7pm. Tickets on Insider.in

Women and history

MARCH 15, 25
The Indian Music Experience Museum (IME) celebrates Women's History Month with a series of events till the end of March. *Mirasans of Punjab - Born To Sing* (a documentary by Shikha Jhingan) and *Orange Butterflies & Aqua Sequins* (exploring women's poetry through music, theatre and dance) are some of their events.
At IME, JP Nagar. Call 9686602366

Dream in a dream

MARCH 17
A German film, *The Dreamed Path,* directed by Angela Schanelec will be screened as part of Max Mueller Bhavan's ongoing series, German Cinema in Focus. This series which has been curated by Shivani showcases specific films that shine a spotlight on German women directors.
At Max Mueller Bhavan, open to all.

Obradovic-Tixier Duo

March 15 and 16, 9:30 pm onwards
Windmills, Whitefield
Tickets: ₹1,500 (seating), ₹499 (standing) via windmills-india.com

Each week, Windmills has been bringing artists from around the world for a sonic insight into everything that goes into the rather large umbrella term that we know as jazz. This time around, the venue will host the Obradovic-Tixier duo from France, an instrumental act comprising French piano player David Tixier and Croatian-French drummer Lada Obradovic. Described as "futuristic jazz", the duo released their fifth album *The Only Thing That Matters* recently and have been touring worldwide in support of the record.

A statement from the artists says, "The duo's music is inspired by stories lived or witnessed by the two musicians. The instrumentation revolves around drums and piano, but explores as well textures throughout digital sampling, percussions, bass synths, and vocoders."

GIG GUIDE

Jungle drums and techno beats

This weekend, Bengaluru brings home music that is as eclectic and diverse as its inhabitants

Anurag Tagat

Catharsis Vol. 3

March 17, 6:30 pm onwards
Fandom at Gilly's Redefined, Koramangala
Tickets: ₹499 via Insider.in, plus ₹500 cover charge at the door

The third edition of multi-genre gig series Catharsis brings in Pune/Kolkata thrash metal band, Splinter, for the launch of their self-titled debut *EP*. Their style of breakneck metal inspired by the '80s Bay Area scene, Teutonic thrash metal as well as South American extreme metal and old-school death metal will be on the same lineup as Bengaluru artist ArK aka Arav Krishnan's band.

While that covers the heavy end of the spectrum at Catharsis, the gig also includes rock band Vinyl, who are inspired by everyone from Billy Joel to The Beatles and Pink Floyd. Rounding off the lineup are singer-songwriter Ramyaa Hariharan and psychedelic rock/shoegaze band Himalayan Sky.

This edition of Catharsis promises an eclectic lineup that is bound to captivate and electrify. A description for the event adds, "Catharsis Vol. 3 invites you to embrace the spirit of discovery, transcend musical boundaries, and experience the thrill of live music."

Zomaland

March 16 and 17, 12 pm onwards
NICE Ground, Madavara
Tickets: ₹899 per day, via Insider.in

The traveling food and culture festival Zomaland stops by Bengaluru this week with a heavy-hitter lineup. That includes headliners such as hip-hop and pop artiste KING and Indo-Canadian pop artiste Jonita Gandhi who recently released her new EP *Love Like That*. Also on the lineup are folk-indie quartet When Chai Met Toast with their euphoric, arena-ready tunes, hip-hop artist Hanumankind with his high-energy set, singer-songwriter Anoushka Maskey, hip-hop duo Shia x Zero Chill, DJ-producer Tranquil and singer-songwriter Arijit Anand, among others. Comedians Atul Khatri and Gaurav Kapoor also feature on the lineup, making Zomaland an all-out entertainment festival.

DJ Viking Soul & Totem Tribe

March 17, 7 pm onwards
One8 Commune, MG Road
Entry: Free

DJ-producer Rinaa Shah's alter-ego DJ Viking Soul allows her to blend percussive elements such as *tabla* and electronic beats, plus sitar for a journeying set. Inspired by tribal music from around the world as well as Afro-house and techno, the artiste takes over the recently opened One8 Commune near MG Road for a night of electronic music.

The experience gets heightened by the inclusion of the Totem Tribe. Described in a press release as "an immersive musical experience combining live performances, dance, and visual spectacle to create a unique tribal celebration." The release adds, "Led by DJ Viking Soul, Totem Tribe brings together a talented team of performers to deliver an unforgettable journey through sound and culture."

Supporting artistes on the lineup include percussionist Arun Sivag, as well as DJs such as Daksh and Arjun.

Convergence of many stories

Shilpa Anandraj

Life, love and art Kenja Chethan Kumar (below) and a still from *Chow Chow Bath*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Cinema comes in all shapes, forms and genres. Ditto for Kannada cinema, which in the past decade has pushed the envelop in new and exciting ways. And while anthologies, might be old hat, what about hyperlink cinema? Kenja Chethan Kumar's defines his latest film, *Chow Chow Bath,* as a hyperlink film.

Antholgies, Chethan says are a collection of unconnected stories put together as a collection of films. "In a hyperlink, you have parallel tracks going on concurrently on screen, which converge as the film progresses," Chethan says at the screening of his film at the Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes 2024). "This format has not been explored in Kannada cinema and we are thrilled to see the audience's reaction."

Chow Chow Bath, featuring actors Aruna Balraj, Sagar Gowda, Sushmitha Bhat, Dhanush S Baikampady and Sankalp Sharma, was nominated in the Kannada Cinema Competition category. "We are thrilled being able to screen the film at this festival. We saw huge footfalls and hope to see the same when the film releases commercially on March 15."

The title of the film, Chethan says is inspired by the famous dishes of Karnataka, *khara bath* and *kesari bath*. "They are opposites in flavour and texture and yet are served on one plate. The title represents the same aspect of our film – the convergence of three parallel tracks in one frame. It's also a romantic comedy. There are six major characters and you feel that their stories are independent of each other, till you hit the pre-climax."

The film is written, directed and edited by Chethan, who hails from Kenja in Mangaluru, which he also uses as a prefix to his name. "Though I never met my grandfather, Kemthur Doddanna Shetty, as he had passed away before I was born, I heard interesting tales of his tryst with theatre in our village. He was a playwright, actor, singer and a director who wrote plays in Tulu and one of his plays is believed to have been staged 6,666 times in and around Mangaluru. It was this history that got me hooked to theatre initially, but I also wanted to branch out into cinema."

Chethan says that he could not afford to train himself with a professional filmmaking course and was keen on working as a film editor. "While researching on the topic of film editors and directors, I discovered that Rajkumar Hirani is an editor turned director and he became my hero and inspiration."

Chethan decided that he would also work as a film editor, equip himself with the skills required and then direct a film. "I started working with the late Gopi Prabhu, who became my mentor and guide. After that, I branched out to work with many television channels."

After seven years of working as film and TV editor, Chethan debuted as a director with *Prema Geema Jaane Do* in 2016, which was followed by *Devaru Bekagiddare*. *Chow Chow Bath*, with music by Hemanth Jois and cinematography by Rudramuni Belagere is produced by Horizzon Movies and releases on March 15.

Thrice as nice

Ranjani Govind

Chip off the old block Mysore Manjunath with son Sumanth. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

For someone as accomplished as violinist Mysore Manjunath who has bagged national and global awards and performed in 40 countries, his enthusiasm to perform at the SVN Rao Centenary event at the Sree Ramaseva Mandali Trust at Nettigere, is refreshing.

"It is an honour for my children Sumanth Manjunath, Malavi Manjunath and I to pay tribute to classical music promoter SVN Rao for whom music was life. We have a long association with the Mandali – my brother Nagaraj and I are grateful to SVN for his encouragement," says Manjunath, who spoke while travelling to Mysore, after a concert at Dharwad.

"The violin has been the life and soul of our family and it is gratifying that the third generation is continuing this legacy," says Manjunath with quiet pride, when asked how it felt to have his children join in the family tradition.

"My father, Mysore S Mahadevappa, while receiving the Sangeetha Kalarathna of Bangalore Gayana Samaja in 2013 had commented, 'I don't know how much I have done to receive this, but I am content that my students, most importantly my sons, Nagaraj and Manjunath, are taking my violin legacy forward. Can a guru or father ask for more?' My father would have been thrilled that a third generation is continuing the tradition."

Mahadevappa, recalls Manjunath, had cherished teaching Sumanth as a grandpa-guru. "His teaching of *kritis, raga* and *neraval* was far more affable when compared to the rod of discipline Nagaraj and I experienced. Later, I took over Sumanth's education. Learning to play the violin to master the instrument, and conditioning a musician to be concert ready are two different dimensions of learning and presentation."

"Today, I am happy that Sumanth, who has a Masters in music and is planning to a pursue a PhD in music, has had solo concerts at international festivals and has held workshops in more than 15 countries, including Oxford and Cambridge Universities, over the past few years. He is preparing for another Europe tour in April."

Manjunath's daughter Malavi, named after the traditional Carnatic raga, who is in class VIII, "wants to catch up with her brother." As a child, Malavi began vocal training with her grandfather, and later had her father's guidance in learning the violin. "Three months ago we had her *ranga-pravesha* on the violin at the Yadugiri Yathiraj Mutt in Malleswaram in Bengaluru. She has been playing solo and with Sumanth as well. During our practice sessions, the three of us concentrate on improvisation and creative renderings, as *kritis* have to be extended to see imaginative and inventive renderings to establish an identity," says Manjunath.

"It was at one of our sessions at home when Malavi was learning about the different melodic pieces of the *Hindola raga* that she ascertained the different techniques and nuanced fingering that calls for handling the *raga* and emotions in lyrics differently."

The math and grammar of presentation that decides the speed, and the phrases that necessitate different strings of play were also Malavi's special areas of interest. At one of those rigorous practice sessions when Sumanth attempted some speeding phrases that he expected his sister to follow, she stopped, her eyes wide in disbelief that the bow and finger could keep up such a cadence! It only took Manjunath a day to inspire her into learning the finer distinctions of playing, to get her to smile again.

Violinists Mysore Manjunath and his children Sumanth and Malavi will perform at Sree Ramaseva Mandali Trust, Nettigere, on March 16 at 11.30am. Call 9482965659 or mail sreeramasevamandalitrust@gmail.com for details.

In a rare occurrence, Mysore M Manjunath will perform with his children at the SVN Rao centenary

Kerala to explore legal options to challenge notification of CAA rules

The notification has brought new legal urgency to the case, says Cabinet; State Assembly had in 2019 adopted a resolution demanding that Centre repeal the Act that sets religion as a criterion for Indian citizenship; it had also filed a suit in the SC

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Cabinet has asked the Advocate-General to explore legal options to challenge the Centre's framing of rules to implement the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019.

The State government is against enforcing the "patently anti-Muslim and deeply schismatic" Act in Kerala. The Assembly had in 2019 adopted a resolution demanding that the Centre repeal the Act that sets religion as a criterion for Indian citizenship.

The State government had filed an original suit before the Supreme Court under Article 131 of the Constitution which gives the top court sole jurisdiction over Centre-State disputes.

Strong opposition: Police removing DYFI activists who blocked a train in Alappuzha to protest against the CAA. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Cabinet on Wednesday said the Union government's notification of the CAA Rules had brought a new legal urgency to the case.

Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala, the Democratic Youth Federation of India, and the Indian Union Muslim League have moved the Supreme Court against the CAA.

Protests continue

Meanwhile, anti-CAA protests rocked the State for the third day on Wednesday. DYFI activists blocked trains in Alappuzha and hundreds of Congress workers marched to the Raj Bhavan.

Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan called Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's steady refrain that State would not implement the Central law a "Constitutional improbability aimed at deluding voters in Kerala." The States, he said, had little role in implementing the CAA.

Only a Congress-led INDIA bloc government at the Centre could annul the law. The government should show justice to the country's common cause by withdrawing the cases registered during the agitation in 2019, he said.

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor said that by setting religion as a criterion for citizenship, the Centre had struck at the foundation of the secular Constitution.

Industries Minister P. Rajeeve said secular forces should unite to resist the schismatic legislation. However, he accused the United Democratic Front (UDF) of diverting public attention from the pressing matter by raising the spectre of non-withdrawal of cases.

Vehicle plates to have TG prefix in Telangana

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

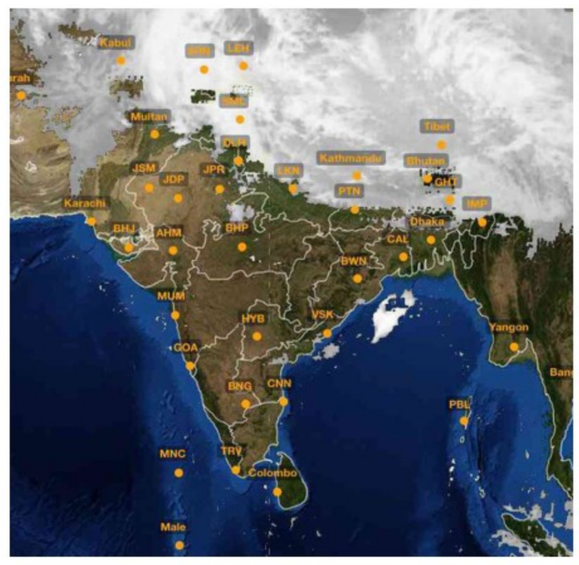
Vehicle registration number plates in Telangana henceforth will bear the State code TG replacing TS – the prefix in use now.

The change came into effect on Tuesday. A gazette notification to this effect was published by the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways on Tuesday. "This change aims to enhance regulatory clarity and effectiveness," a release said.

The proposal to change the State code was initiated by the new Congress government, led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, who reasoned that 'TG' was part of the rallying cry during the Telangana Statehood movement.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Gangetic West Bengal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	34.0	22.8	Kozhikode	—	36.1	27.4
Ahmedabad	—	34.6	22.2	Kurnool	—	40.9	27.2
Aizawl	—	31.9	17.0	Lucknow	—	32.4	18.0
Allahabad	—	35.0	16.6	Madurai	—	38.2	23.2
Bengaluru	—	34.2	22.0	Mangaluru	—	33.8	24.8
Bhopal	—	34.6	16.6	Mumbai	—	31.7	24.0
Bhubaneswar	—	35.4	26.0	Mysuru	—	36.0	22.0
Chandigarh	—	26.7	14.3	New Delhi	—	31.4	13.0
Chennai	—	35.7	23.9	Patna	—	33.1	19.5
Coimbatore	—	37.6	23.0	Port Blair	—	31.6	23.8
Dehradun	—	26.8	12.6	Puducherry	—	33.4	24.8
Gangtok	1.4	17.6	10.4	Pune	—	37.8	19.0
Goa	—	32.9	23.9	Raipur	—	37.8	23.8
Guwahati	—	33.2	14.8	Ranchi	—	33.4	17.6
Hubballi	—	37.0	20.0	Shillong	—	22.0	10.0
Hyderabad	—	37.8	25.8	Shimla	8	14.8	5.5
Imphal	—	27.5	11.0	Srinagar	—	12.6	5.4
Jaipur	—	32.4	17.8	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.5	25.0
Kochi	—	32.6	27.6	Tiruchi	—	37.7	23.6
Kohima	—	22.4	10.0	Vijayawada	—	35.8	24.5
Kolkata	—	34.4	24.4	Visakhapatnam	—	32.3	26.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	5	—	19	278	191	
Bengaluru	10	17	25	144	155	
Chennai	11	17	48	83	90	
Delhi	16	78	60	203	211	
Hyderabad	13	27	29	90	123	
Kolkata	4	13	83	64	82	
Lucknow	8	57	34	112	107	
Mumbai	84	54	78	29	102	
Pune	96	121	113	68	79	
Visakhapatnam	11	50	23	80	123	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Dholpur, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 345 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Tumakuru, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 31

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

AIADMK, BJP are in a secret alliance, says T.N. CM

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

Lashing out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Wednesday said, "Not only in the Lok Sabha election...be it any election, I say with confidence that victory is ours."

'Irresponsible govt.'

"What good has the AIADMK, which boasts about the Kongu region being its fort, done for the region," he asked, referring to the Pollachi sexual assault case and the intimidation of those who had filed complaints. Describing the former AIADMK regime, led by Mr. Palaniswami, as the most irresponsible government, he said that it was the AIADMK government that disclosed the identity of the sexual assault victim.

The Kodanad dacoity-cum-murder, the assault on protesters who sought to revoke the ban on jallikattu, and the Thoothukudi police firing that claimed 13 lives had all taken place when the AIADMK was in power, he said. The names of an AIADMK Minister and a Director-General of Police who had served under the AIADMK government had figured on the list of bribe-takers who had allowed the sale of ganja and gutkha, he said.

INDIA bloc fighting

The Chief Minister claimed that the AIADMK and the BJP were in a secret alliance, and that the INDIA bloc was fighting them vehemently.

Claiming that Mr. Modi had done nothing for the people, he said that newspapers and television channels were full of advertisements on the 'Modi Guarantee' to cover up the facts.

What happened to Mr. Modi's electoral promises of bringing black money back from abroad, depositing ₹15 lakh into the bank account of each individual, and providing two crore jobs to unemployed youth, he asked.

When the Prime Minister visits Tamil Nadu next week, the people should ask him about the projects implemented by his government in the State, Mr. Stalin said. When Mr. Modi last visited the State, he lied "in his inimitable style" that his government's projects were being stalled by the DMK regime, Mr. Stalin said, adding that Mr. Modi should name at least one such project. "Who stalled AIIMS in Madurai that was announced in 2014," he asked.

For the past 10 years, the Modi government was silent on Tamil Nadu. But with the election approaching, he was visiting the State frequently, dishing out lies, Mr. Stalin said. "People are not willing to entertain these lies. They have identified the secret alliance between the BJP and the AIADMK," he said.

The large number of people attending the event was a testimony to the fact that the DMK had implemented a majority of its poll promises, the Chief Minister said.

Leopard hide seized in A.P., four taken into custody

The Hindu Bureau
VISAKHAPATNAM

Officials of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) and the Forest department seized a leopard hide in Andhra Pradesh and took four persons into custody.

Based on a tip-off, the DRI sleuths raided a hotel on the Beach Road in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday and found the accused persons and the hide. Three of the accused persons are from Chennai.

Visakhapatnam District Forest Officer Anant Shankar said the gang of traffickers were poaching leopards and selling their skin for profit.

Time to rejoice

Happy faces: Students sharing a lighter moment after completing Class 10 CBSE Board exams, in Hyderabad on Wednesday. NAGARA GOPAL

Kerala CM launches Sabari K-Rice, flays Centre's scheme

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who launched the Kerala government's subsidised Sabari K-Rice here on Wednesday, slammed the Centre's Bharat Rice initiative saying that it was driven by considerations of "profit and political gain."

Rice available at ₹18.59 per kg was being sold as Bharat Rice for ₹29. The Centre has taken up rice distribution eyeing profit and political gain, he said.

The State government is providing a subsidy of almost ₹11 per kg on its Sabari K-Rice, which is purchased by the State at ₹40 a kg. Kerala's public distribution system is a model for the entire nation. It will be strengthened further, he said.

New Scheme: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurating the distribution of Sabari K-Rice on Wednesday. S. MAHINSHA

Mr. Vijayan also slammed the Centre's decision to bar governments and State-run agencies from sourcing food grains through the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS).

Prior to the National Food Security Act, Kerala was eligible for 16.25 lakh tonnes of food grains. After its enactment, the quota reduced to 14.25 lakh tonnes. The State government had been sourcing additional rice through the OMSS during times of higher demand such as festivals and natural calamities, the Chief Minister said.

TDP's only difference with BJP was over denial of SCS: Naidu

V. Raghavendra
VIJAYAWADA

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and Telugu Desam Party national president N. Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday claimed to have no differences with the Bharatiya Janata Party, except over the denial of Special Category Status (SCS) to the State.

Mr. Naidu insisted that the TDP-BJP-Jana Sena Party (JSP) alliance was for the benefit of the State, while pointing out that his support to the NDA during Atal Bihari Vajpayee's time was unconditional.

Addressing a meeting on *Kalalaku Rekkalu* ('Wings to the Daughters of A.P.'), a scheme for the welfare of women and girls proposed to be implemented in the event of TDP-BJP-JSP alliance coming to power, Mr. Naidu said there was no development under the YSR Congress Party rule and whatever people were enjoying now were the fruits of development that took place between 2014 and 2019.

Mr. Naidu stated that the TDP would implement five schemes under the 'Mahasakthi' programme, which was going to be one of the significant promises to be incorporated in the party manifesto.

Tata Motors to invest over ₹9,000 cr. in T.N.

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tata Motors Group, which manufactures commercial and passenger vehicles, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Tamil Nadu government for establishing a vehicle manufacturing facility at an investment of over ₹9,000 crore over five years.

The unit is expected to create 5,000 jobs, directly and indirectly.

According to an official statement, the unit is expected to come up in Ranipet.

V. Vishnu, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Guidance Tamil Nadu, and P.B. Balaji, CFO, Tata Motors Group, signed the MoU in the presence of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin.

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin at the signing of the MoU on Wednesday.

T.R.B. Rajaa, Minister for Industries; V. Arun Roy, Secretary, Industries, Investment Promotion and Commerce; and senior officials of Tata Motors Group were present.

According to details that Tata Motors submitted to the Bombay Stock Exchange, following the signing of the MoU, teams from Guidance, the investment promotion agency of the State government, and Tata Motors Group will work together to take this opportunity forward.

As soon as the MoU was signed, Mr. Rajaa posted the following message on X (formerly Twitter): "Another billion dollar investment comes into #TamilNadu! #TataMotors and the Government of Tamil Nadu are revving up for an epic journey!"

Two big investments

He also mentioned that for the first time, Tamil Nadu had attracted two big automobile manufacturing investments within two months. "Over the past couple of years, Tamil Nadu has hit the fast lane and become the ultimate hub for investments, showcasing our Chief Minister's dedication to fostering top-tier employment for our vibrant youth and amplifying our industrial prowess. We're not just building factories; we're engineering dreams and accelerating towards a brighter, more prosperous future!" he said.

On February 25, Mr. Stalin laid the foundation for VinFast Auto Limited's electric car manufacturing facility in Thoothukudi. The Vietnam-headquartered company has committed itself to investing ₹16,000 crore.

Tiger that caused panic in Wayanad caught after 10 days

The Hindu Bureau
KALPETTA

A tiger that caused panic among residents in Meenangadi gram panchayat, under the South Wayanad Forest Division of Kerala, was captured on Tuesday.

The big cat, aged about seven, had triggered panic among the people for the past 10 days after it strayed into the area and reportedly killed three domestic animals. The animal is identified as WYS-07, a resident of the South Wayanad Forest Division.

A forest team, led by Chethalayath range officer Abdul Samad, set up a trap at Pampumkolly, near Mylambadi, and caught the animal. The officials had also installed eight surveillance cameras at two sites to monitor its movements.

The tiger's capture has come as a relief to the local residents.

Shifted to hospice

The predator was shifted to the animal hospice and palliative care unit for big cats at Sulthan Bathery.

The animal is not fit to be released into the wild as it has lost all of its canine teeth, Forest department sources said. The loss of its teeth might have forced the tiger to enter human habitation for easy prey, they said.

Wrong messaging

The underpinning of religion in the implementation of CAA is problematic

The government's decision to implement the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019, just days before the dates for the general election are expected to be announced seems to be a precursor to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) exploiting a polarising issue in the poll campaign. A law strongly opposed by many, especially by the Muslim community, for introducing a religion-based test for grant of citizenship to immigrants from three chosen countries, the CAA is under legal challenge before the Supreme Court of India. Enacted in 2019, it was not implemented until now as the government did not notify the rules to operationalise its provisions. The timing of the rules being notified raises a legitimate doubt if it is an attempt to divert attention away from the electoral bonds controversy. The rules were unveiled at a time when the nation was questioning the delay in the submission of details about the purchasers of anonymous electoral bonds and the parties that redeemed them. The circumstances make one question the urgent need to implement a law that has not been acted upon for five years. The new rules also appear carefully crafted, designed as they are to introduce processes that will leave no scope for States to impede its implementation. It is possible that the rules were ready for a long time, and the CAA issue is being revived for electoral gains.

The essence of the CAA, in reality, may not affect the interests of minority citizens: after all, it is only a fast-tracking mechanism for minorities – Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians – from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan to gain citizenship. Instead of the usual 11 years (out of the preceding 14 years), the waiting period for this class of immigrants will only be five years, provided they had arrived before December 31, 2014. Further, there is nothing in it that removes anyone's citizenship. The problem with the CAA is two-fold: first, in its discriminatory norm that specifies some religious communities as eligible for citizenship. All those from these six religions in these three countries are presumed to have fled persecution. Others who do not fall into this category, either due to their entering the country after the cut-off date, or because of their religion, will continue to be treated as illegal migrants. The second aspect is the unfortunate political propaganda that sought to link the CAA with the National Register of Citizens. This rhetoric accentuated the fears of Muslims that the CAA may lead to loss of citizenship without adequate documentary proof. More than its content, the CAA is causing harm through its use for the Narendra Modi regime's political messaging to the effect that all its policies will have an underpinning of religion.

A fresh stance

India's free trade pact with four EU nations matters even if gains are limited

On Sunday, India signed a Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) with a bloc of four European countries – Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland, formally known as the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). The pact has been in the works since 2008 but slipped off India's to-do list after the UPA government's exit. In market access terms, the deal offers more room for Indian services firms, with easier visa rules, so that they can also tap other European markets using these countries as a base. Professionals (architects, accountants and nurses), can also expect more opportunities. Most goods exports already get duty-free treatment in Switzerland, India's largest EFTA trade partner, so the lynchpin in this deal is the in-built goal to nudge $100 billion of fresh foreign direct investment into India and create a million jobs over 15 years. Indian consumers can expect cheaper wines and chocolates, while producers may access cheaper machinery. India's tariff cuts are linked to investment inflows, but a full assessment of those outcomes will only happen after 20 years, so persistent hard work is needed on both sides to realise these goals.

For India, the speed with which the EFTA deal has been dusted off and sealed within months of resuming negotiations is creditable. It constitutes the second major trade pact in recent years since the deal with the United Arab Emirates, and the first such arrangement with a western nations' grouping. An interim deal with Australia that kicked in late 2022, is yet to be followed through to a comprehensive agreement. Parleys for a deal with the Gulf Cooperation Council, mooted since 2004, are yet to take off. A deal with Canada has been waylaid by political frictions. Talks are on with the European Union (EU) and the United Kingdom, with the latter likely in the last mile. The EFTA deal assumes greater symbolic significance than the size of trade flows involved. It signals that India's apparent aversion to such trade pacts since 2014, capped by its walkout from the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership in 2019, is likely a thing of the past. A country that has often been criticised for its high import tariffs and protectionist approach, now seems willing and able to walk the talk on free trade when many nations are turning protectionist. The EFTA pact, expected to be ratified by the end of 2024, also marks the first time that India has agreed to include non-trade issues such as labour, human rights, environment and gender in an economic agreement. Whether the inclusion of these issues in trade deals is necessary can be debated, but this is a positive augury for potential allies such as the EU that consider them critical.

India's R&D funding, breaking down the numbers

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The announcement in the interim Budget for 2024-25, of a corpus of ₹1 lakh crore to bolster the research and innovation ecosystem within the country, has sparked enthusiasm within the scientific and research communities. The decision to rebrand the slogan, '*Jai Jawan Jai Kisan*' (by Lal Bahadur Shastri) to '*Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan*' (A.B. Vajpayee) to now '*Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan, Jai Anusandhan*' (by the Prime Minister) is intended to reinforce the foundation of research and innovation for development. The significance of research and innovation cannot be overstated in fuelling economic growth, technological advancement, and global competitiveness. However, to fully realise the impact, it is crucial to assess the current research and development (R&D) funding landscape in India and its resulting output. This entails examining India's comparatively lower R&D expenditure as a percentage of GDP alongside its noteworthy output in terms of patent grants, PhDs awarded, and publication outputs. Analysing the quality of this output is equally imperative in understanding the true implications of these initiatives.

India's R&D is witnessing significant growth, with a notable increase in Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) from ₹6,01,968 million in 2010-11 to ₹12,73,810 million in 2020-21. However, with research and development investment as a percentage of GDP standing at 0.64%, India falls behind major developed and emerging economies such as China (2.4%), Germany (3.1%), South Korea (4.8%) and the United States (3.5%).

Research output, innovation

Despite the comparatively lower share of GDP dedicated to R&D, India has emerged as a powerhouse in producing academic talent. Annually, India generates an impressive 40,813 PhDs and is in third place after the United States and China. This achievement reflects India's commitment to fostering intellectual capital and contributing significantly to global research endeavours. Additionally, India's research output remains substantial, ranking third globally, with over 3,00,000 publications in 2022, highlighting the nation's robust research ecosystem and its commitment to advancing knowledge across diverse fields. India also demonstrates commendable performance in patent grants, securing the sixth position globally with 30,490 patents granted in 2022. While this figure is lower compared to the U.S. and China, it underscores India's evolving innovation landscape and its potential for further growth in intellectual property creation.

In India, GERD is primarily driven by the government sector, including the central government (43.7%), State governments (6.7%), Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) (8.8%), and the public sector industry (4.4%), with the private sector industry contributing only 36.4% during 2020-21. Collaboration between the government, business enterprises and HEIs is essential to maximise the positive impact of science, technology, and innovation on economic growth and technological advancement.

Investment in R&D

According to the R&D statistics (2022-23) of the Department of Science and Technology, India's total investment in R&D reached $17.2 billion in 2020-21. Within this sum, 54% ($9.4 billion) is allocated to the government sector and predominantly utilised by four key scientific agencies – the Defence Research and Development Organisation (30.7%), the Department of Space (18.4%), the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (12.4%), and the Department of Atomic Energy (11.4%). A significant portion of R&D funding originates from the government, with considerable allocation directed towards autonomous R&D laboratories operated by the government. These laboratories serve a pivotal role in driving research and technology development with strategic implications. This symbiotic relationship between government funding, R&D execution, and strategic focus underscores the integral role of the government in steering and fostering key scientific advancements.

However, the contribution of private industries lags behind that of many other economies. At approximately $6.2 billion, Indian businesses represent 37% of the country's GERD, in contrast to the global trend, where business enterprises typically contribute over 65% of R&D. In leading innovative economies such as China, Japan, South Korea, and the U.S., a significant portion (>70%) of R&D funding is from private industries, driven by market forces and profit motives, and the actual R&D activities are conducted in the HEIs. India's R&D ecosystem has its advantages in terms of efficiency, but could benefit more from strong private enterprises involvement and stronger industry-academia collaboration, facilitating knowledge transfer and fostering innovation.

HEIs play a comparatively minor role in the overall R&D investment, contributing 8.8% ($1.5 billion). It is important to recognise that increasing industry contribution to R&D is a complex issue with no single solution. A multi-pronged approach involving diverse stakeholders is necessary to address the challenges and unlock the potential of R&D for India's economic growth and competitiveness. Learning from the R&D ecosystem in other developed countries while maintaining India's strengths in streamlined decision-making and strategic alignment could be a powerful force to optimise its R&D landscape. India must implement policies that incentivise private companies to invest in R&D.

Impact of initiatives

India's technological and manufacturing aspirations hinge on a transformative shift in its R&D landscape. Closing the existing gap demands a dual strategy: encouraging private sector involvement and fortifying academia's research infrastructure. Initiatives such as the National Deep Tech Startup Policy (NDTSP) signal a strong commitment to technological progress and innovation. This policy holds the potential to incentivise private sector engagement in India's R&D ecosystem. Despite the substantial time and technical uncertainties involved in Deep Tech's creation, allocating resources to safeguard intellectual property and tackle technical obstacles can unlock untapped markets. The recent enactment of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) Act, underscores the government's dedication to catalysing research and innovation as the cornerstone of development.

This legislative move will bolster scientific research nationwide. The Act aims to bridge India's persistent R&D investment gap while nurturing a robust research culture within HEIs. Although promising, this initiative must surmount challenges such as ensuring equitable fund distribution, fostering interdisciplinary collaborations, and upholding global standards. These efforts are poised to elevate R&D spending in India, providing strategic guidance for research, innovation, and entrepreneurship while encouraging greater private sector involvement. The interim Budget, combined with the NDTSP and ANRF Act, sends positive signals regarding India's commitment to incentivising private sector-led research and innovation, particularly in burgeoning industries.

India's technological and manufacturing aspirations hinge on a transformative shift in its R&D landscape

Comparison of research productivity and innovation metrics in selected countries (2021-22)

Country	Researchers per million inhabitants (2021) (FTE)	PhDs produced annually (2021) (Rank)	Publication output (2022) (Rank)	Top 1% most cited articles (% share)	Patents granted (2022) (Rank)
India	262	40,813 (3)	3,06,800 (3)	0.7	30,490 (6)
The U.S.	4,452	69,525 (1)	15,06,000 (1)	1.88	3,23,410 (2)
The U.K.	4,491	27,366 (5)	2,87,200 (4)	2.35	10,578 (15)
China	1,687	53,778 (2)	9,78,100 (2)	1.12	7,98,347 (1)
S. Korea	9,082	13,882 (11)	1,09,200 (16)	1.02	1,35,180 (4)
Japan	5,638	15,804 (10)	1,71,000 (9)	0.88	2,01,420 (3)

Source: Publications data has been extracted from OpenAlex on February 7, 2024.

The Karnataka civil engineers Bill, its pathway

A. Srivathsan

is a professor at CEPT University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

The goal of the Karnataka Professional Civil Engineers Bill, that was passed recently, to improve professionalisation and construction standards, is laudable. However, the route it recommends, which mandates only certified civil engineers to offer engineering designs, is bound to create confusion, become unnecessarily restrictive, turn impractical and remain out of sync with best practices.

The brick and mortar

The Bill establishes four key things. First, it defines a civil engineer, lists engineering designs, imposes restrictions on those who can offer engineering design services, and, finally, instructs how to ensure this.

Anyone with a diploma or a degree in a civil engineering discipline in India or abroad can qualify as a civil engineer. However, they must register with the Karnataka Council of Professional Civil Engineers within one year from the date of commencement of the Act. In addition, they should obtain a certificate to become a 'professional civil engineer' in Karnataka. For this, those with degrees need one year of experience, while those with diplomas require two years of experience. Only professional civil engineers can offer engineering designs, which includes 'civil, structural, geotechnical, and environmental engineering designs and drawings'. It also includes 'conceptual plans, master plans, layout plans, and other designs and drawings for buildings and infrastructure'.

The Bill insists that any building that is more than 50 square metres in plinth area or taller than the ground floor or that is not built with load-bearing masonry structure (meaning, buildings with columns and beams, and others) or a group housing project with more than three buildings must be supervised or executed or certified only by professional civil engineers. Strict gatekeeping is imposed by instructing government authorities not to permit construction unless registered professional civil engineers certify designs and drawings.

These provisions must be rethought for three reasons. First, despite the overlaps between professional services in the building industry, the Bill ,unmindfully and restrictively, defines engineering designs. This is baffling since the Supreme Court of India, pointing out difficulties in a comparable situation involving architects, has refused to exclude related professionals from offering overlapping services.

In 2020, while settling architects' claim that their professional Act prohibits non-architects from offering architectural services, the Court pointed out that services, including site design, structural design, structural integration of services, incorporation of mechanical systems and inspection of construction, are carried out concertedly by a host of related professionals. Hence, to favour one group by imposing 'absolute prohibition' on others would lead to 'considerable confusion'. It wisely observed that 'varied professions form essential cogs in the overall machinery of construction' and one cannot take a hard and exclusionary regulatory view.

It is probably for these reasons that the Gujarat Professional Civil Engineers Act, 2006, which is similar, is restrained in its scope. It limits registered professional civil engineers only to certify engineering designs, which it does not define. Even this limited version may not withstand a legal challenge. Also, on the ground, anecdotally, the regulations are more honoured in the breach.

Global practices

Second, many countries are cautious about regulations restricting competition, reinforcing monopoly tendencies, raising prices, and working against user interest. Hence, they support the self-regulation of professions. Recalling a study on engineering licensing and professional practice across several countries would also be worthwhile. It pointed out that "there is no hard evidence that tight engineering licensure provides economic gains to societies". Also, large firms that employ many engineers and architects could easily countervail these provisions, making them difficult to implement.

Third, many professional councils across the world, aware of these complexities, have not tried to ring fence their services. Instead, they take the alternative and effective route of protecting titles such as 'chartered engineer or architect' by establishing a rigorous process that demands high academic standards and experience.

The councils also mandate additional peer interviews or examinations as non-negotiable requirements. Through this, they let users know that professional titles are not offered lightly, and only the competent ones earn them. Users, convinced by the credibility of the collective, voluntarily seek certified professionals.

For example, the Engineering Council in the United Kingdom clarifies that there are no restrictions on practising as an engineer. However, it protects titles offered to the qualified and those who pass professional reviews. Only a limited number of high-risk constructions, such as reservoir design and road tunnel safety regulations, are reserved for licensed persons. The same goes for the Architects Registration Board in the U.K. In comparison, the Karnataka Bill seeks an absolute protection of services and falls short of licensing requirements. There are no examinations and fewer experience requirements in the Bill. It would serve better to tighten the process leading to certification.

The question of which professional is more competent to offer a particular service will continue to arise regularly. As was decided in one of the cases involving the architect-engineer dispute in the signing of drawings for permits in Washington State, U.S., there cannot be a bright-line rule, and divisions are impossible in a 'general sense'. It must be decided on an event-to-event basis, locally and based on education, experience, and special knowledge. What would be even better is to resist the demand for professional turfs to control supply. An effective solution would be to influence the demand side by continuously demonstrating the usefulness of professionals and certification.

The views expressed are personal

The Karnataka Professional Civil Engineers Bill pushes a bright-line rule and flounders

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Acquittal

In recent times, the Supreme Court of India has come onto its own in speaking eloquently for people's freedom and democracy. Justice B.R. Gavai's statement that there was no urgency in staying Professor Sai Baba's acquittal is part of this trend. Prof. Sai Baba's wife standing next to him cheerfully while the Court declined to stay his acquittal is noteworthy. Almost 80% of prisoners in India are undertrials. Their cases need to be disposed of expeditiously. Appeals against acquittals being heard by the Court on a Saturday should also become a thing of the past. It is comforting that freedom is finally reaching a man who is on a wheelchair.

N.G.R. Prasad,
Chennai

Reservation and judgment

My father, M.R. Veerabadran, was the petitioner (W.P no. 8142 of 87 and WA 1692 of 1987) seeking separate reservation for Scheduled Tribes in Tamil Nadu. The judgment was delivered on January 8, 1990 by Justice Sathiadev and Justice (Mrs) Padmini Jesudurai, as *V. Vijayamalu (minor), represented by her father and natural guardian, M.R. Veerabadran (Appellant) vs The Director of Medical Education (Respondent)*. Senior counsel M.R.M. Abdul Kareem had argued that SCs and STs are unequal, which was affirmed by the judgment. The N.M. Thomas judgment was used by the judges in the separate reservation for ST judgment.

V. Karunakaran,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

Higher engagement, better learning

The Annual Status of Education Report 2023 states that more than 86.8% individuals in the age group of 14-18 are enrolled in educational institutions, but one-fourth of them cannot read a Class 2-level text fluently in their regional languages.

Urmila Chowdhury

has 35 years of experience as an educationist and currently serves as the Education Director at Peepul, an education non-profit

A learning deficit

India has been struggling with a learning deficit for years now. And though there is more awareness about this thanks to Pratham's annual surveys, little seems to have changed on the ground. Attendance in public schools tends to be low, so despite children being enrolled in school, many of them don't learn much. This is largely because schools are unable to engage children. Therefore, children and parents see little value in school. Across classrooms, government school teachers attribute poor student learning outcomes to poor student attendance. When students don't show up, teachers lose their motivation and do little to increase the level of engagement with learners, which could in turn motivate students to show up. It's a chicken and egg situation.

Students learn when there is motivation to do so and that happens when classrooms are meaningful and psychologically safe spaces. However, in classrooms across India, the teacher focuses only on the few students who sit in the front rows. The teacher writes questions and often even the answers on the blackboard. The students spend most of their learning hours copying off the board while the teacher leaves the room to do "more important" work. The teacher asks questions, but only a few children generally answer. Otherwise, the class answers in a chorus. The children repeat after the teacher in unison. The teacher asks if everyone has understood and receives an enthusiastic 'yes' in response. But this does not give a sense of how much the students have really learned. This looks and sounds like active learning, but is not, because the children are not cognitively or emotionally engaged. India has a long tradition of rote learning. Many have progressed in life learning this way, but this kind of learning does not serve all students. In any case, with the world changing so fast, children need different skills.

A two-way communication

Now imagine a classroom where the teacher calls upon every child randomly. Every child is alert, curious, and attentive. The students are allowed to discuss and solve problems with their peers and learn from one another. Every child gets to touch, feel, and use the learning material – whether a maths manipulative, a book, or a science kit. The teacher stays in the classroom while the children work and gives them feedback in real time. The children cognitively engage with the topic. There is a happy buzz of students taking ownership for their own learning. This is student engagement and this is what makes the classroom a meaningful space for every learner.

Unless the teacher participates, student engagement cannot happen. Classroom learning opportunities must be made available to everyone, irrespective of gender, caste, religion, special needs, or disability. When teachers actively engage students in a lesson, learning outcomes improve. This seems like a simple premise. Why then is it so difficult to implement in the classroom? The many problems that plague the education system, including inadequate teacher allocation, poor systemic governance, outdated teaching practices, lack of teacher support and coaching, all contribute to making this hard to implement at scale.

There are many teachers who teach with passion and dedication, despite the challenges. However, even when we have dedicated teachers teaching and good student attendance, children still do not always learn. A part of the problem is that many of these teachers were themselves not taught in an engaging way. So, very few of them worry about whether they are engaging the learner as they don't see it as their responsibility. Teaching is largely seen as a one-way communication with the teacher getting no feedback from the student during the lesson. The teacher does not know what is going on in the learner's mind and therefore cannot customise their teaching to suit the learner's needs.

Student engagement is the key to driving better learning, but this is missing from many classrooms in India

Teaching the teacher

Teachers have not seen how practices such as questioning are practiced. This is because teacher education and training in India tends to be theoretical. It is conducted in seminar-style and tends to be a one-way communication. There is little opportunity for practice provided to the participants. We must see teachers as learners too and provide them with an engaging learning environment with 70% practice and 30% theory so that training serves a two-fold purpose: teachers get trained, but also experience learner engagement for themselves.

Additionally, there is no one in school to support teachers. All of us need coaching and hand-holding to support us in adopting new behaviour. Even though teaching is a vital job, teachers do not get help.

Student engagement is the key to driving better learning, but this is missing from many classrooms. Structured lessons, high quality teacher-student relationships, and student autonomy, i.e. allowing students choices in the classroom result in higher engagement and better learning outcomes. Simple changes in classroom techniques can positively impact the learning environment. In India, we have spent a few years discussing the Right to Education but this is a good time to shift the focus to the Right to Learning. Else, reading every ASER report will only lead to more disappointment.

Too many trekkers spoil the mountains

The Karnataka Ecotourism Development Board has forgotten its role

STATE OF PLAY

Janaki Murali

After 4,000 trekkers climbed the Kumara Parvatha peak in the ecologically fragile Pushpagiri Wildlife Sanctuary on the Republic Day weekend, an alarmed Karnataka government temporarily banned trekking in the State. Until a standard operating procedure is put in place, routes without an online booking system would remain closed, it said.

Although temporary in nature, the ban will effectively extend until September, as trekking is not allowed in the forest from March to September due to the risks associated with the monsoon months and probable forest fires.

Videos of a traffic jam of climbers en route to the peak went viral on social media. The government took this decision after ecologists and conservationists raised concerns about the damage that this could cause to the ecologically sensitive Western Ghats. While welcoming prompt action from the government, activists have called for more stringent measures and access to be limited to only serious trekkers studying forests and the environment.

Nowadays, many young trekkers with disposable incomes book weekend getaways that are challenging. They often flood social media with their personal vlogs, capturing their unique experience of negotiating a tough terrain. At a height of 5,600 feet, the Kumara Parvatha in Dakshina Kannada is considered one of the toughest treks in south India. The trek extends 25 km both ways, starting from the Kukke Subramanya temple, about 280 km

from Bengaluru.

Several private tourism agents and trekking clubs offer trekking packages to large groups, which include food packets, tents, and forest entry fees. So much so that forest department officials face challenges in handling the crowds at entry points. This is where baggage is checked for banned items and passes are then issued. Some serious trekkers have likened the weekend crowds to that of the Everest base camp during peak season and prefer to trek during the weekdays.

It is puzzling that the forest department has not fixed restrictions on the number of trekkers who can enter the forest per day, especially since the Karnataka Tourism Policy 2020-26 (revised) states that "ecotourism activities shall focus on increasing awareness towards conservation and sustainability of biodiversity and natural environments." It adds, "The development and promotion of ecotourism shall be done after careful consideration of the destination's carrying capacity..."

The Pushpagiri wildlife sanctuary, proposed as a World Heritage Site, is one of 21 sanctuaries in Karnataka. It is situated in the Western Ghats, which has been recognised by UNESCO as one of the eight "hottest hotspots" in the world. The UNESCO says, "Forests of the site include some of the best representatives of non-equatorial tropical evergreen forests anywhere and are home to at least 325 globally threatened flora, fauna, bird, amphibian, reptile and fish species."

When the Karnataka Ecotourism Development Board (KEDB) was set up in 2013, its aim was to "help the government immensely in protecting the wildlife, creating awareness about it, encouraging eco-tourism, forest safaris and also prevent damage to the eco-system in the name of tourism." Under its objectives, the KEDB states that "the Forest Department shall encourage and permit wilderness tourism in specified areas of the National Parks/Sanctuaries/Forests, as a conservation tool. It is necessary that tourists desirous of entering wilderness areas should have interest in the flora and fauna. Casual tourists shall be discouraged." It adds, "The wilderness areas are sacrosanct, and should continue to sustain themselves in pristine state... the entry of the number of tourists permissible shall be kept within limits."

So, what went wrong? How did a body set up expressly to protect the sensitive ecological regions while promoting ecotourism forget its role? How did the board remain a silent bystander to the indiscriminate entry of tourists into this eco-sensitive region?

Overcrowding damages the delicate biodiversity of the region and also poses dangers to the tourists themselves. Forests are not just a source of livelihood, food, and fuel, but also act as carbon sinks. They purify our air and water and help fight climate change. Both the state and civil society have a role to play in conserving our rich biodiversity.

Janaki Murali is a journalist and author

Russian dominance in India's arms imports declines

Russia's share in India's arms imports shrunk from 76% in 2009-13 to 36% in 2019-23

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

In the last 15 years, India has significantly reduced its dependence on its biggest arms supplier, Russia. According to new data released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), a Swedish think tank, about 76% of arms imported by India during the 2009-13 period was from Russia. In contrast, in the 2019-23 period, Russia's share reduced to 36%.

While Russia still remains India's largest supplier, arms imports have increased substantially from France and the U.S. in recent years **(Chart 1)**. France's share in India's arms imports was just 0.9% in the 2009-13 period. However, in the 2019-23 period, its share climbed to 33%, making it the second largest supplier. The U.S.'s share increased from 8% in 2009-13 to 13% in 2019-23. The chart shows the volume of arms transfers from the five major arms exporters to India in terms of trend-indicator value. This is calculated based on the known unit production cost of a core set of weapons and is intended to represent the transfer of military resources rather than the financial value of the transfer. India's arms imports increased by 4.7% during 2019-23 compared to the previous five-year period.

Between 2019 and 2023, India climbed one spot to become the world's biggest arms importer **(Chart 2)**, displacing Saudi Arabia. India's share in global arms imports rose from 9.1% in 2014-18 to 9.8% in 2019-23. Saudi Arabia, which was the biggest importer in the previous five-year period, reduced from 11% to 8.4%.

Understandably, Ukraine, which had a negligible share in global arms imports in 2014-18, increased its share to 4.9% in the next five years, especially after the Russian invasion in February 2022.

As far as India's neighbours are concerned, Pakistan's share in global imports increased from 2.9% in 2014-18 to 4.3% in 2019-23. The share of China, on the other hand, declined from 4.9% to 2.9% in the same period.

According to SIPRI, countries in Asia, Oceania, and West Asia continued to import arms in much larger volumes than Europe. In 2019-23, nine of the 10 biggest arms importers were from Asia, Oceania, or West Asia. **Chart 2** shows the share of top countries in global arms imports in two five-year periods.

Russia's role as an arms supplier diminished not just in the case of India but across the world. Russia accounted for 21% of all arms exports in 2014-18. In 2019-23, this share came down to 11% **(Chart 3)**. In volume terms, Russia's exports fell by 52% during the two periods.

According to the think tank, until the year 2019, the volume of Russian arms exports remained more or less constant with minimal changes. However, export volumes started to rapidly decline in 2020, 2021, and 2022. In 2023, the volume exported was 74% lower than the levels recorded in 2019.

Russia was the major arms supplier to 31 nations in 2019. This figure decreased to 14 in 2022 and 12 by 2023. On the other hand, the U.S., the biggest exporter of arms, further cemented its position by increasing its share in global exports from 34% to 42%. **Chart 3** shows the share of top countries in global arms exports in two five-year periods.

Table 4 lists the units of various types of weapons ordered by India in the last 15 years. Missiles formed the largest component in India's arms order and a majority of them were from Russia followed by the U.S., Israel, and France. Most ordered commodities also included engines, armoured vehicles, and aircraft. While engines and aircraft were mostly ordered from Russia, France and the U.S., armoured vehicles came from South Africa and Russia.

From Moscow to Paris
The data for the charts were sourced from the Arms Transfers Database maintained by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

Chart 1: The chart shows the volume of arms transfers from the five major arms exporters to India in terms of trend-indicator value (TIV)

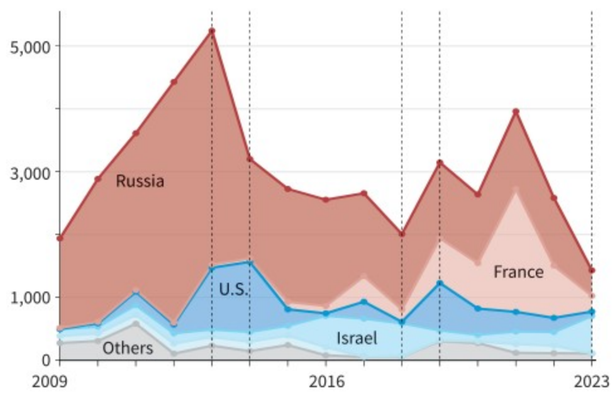
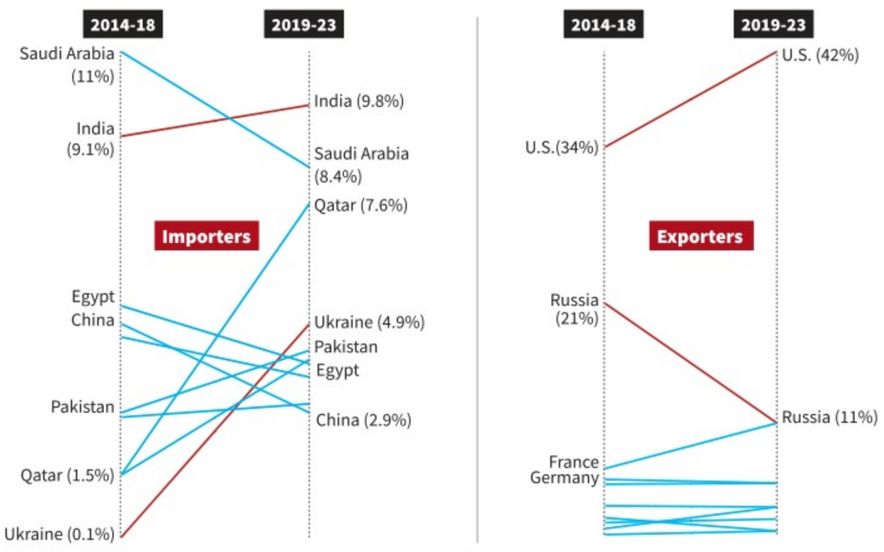


Table 4: The table lists the units of various types of weapons ordered by India in the last 15 years

Seller	Missiles	Engines	Armoured vehicles	Aircraft
Russia	59,821	593	1,005	356
U.S.	4,622	329		136
Israel	1,821			44
France	1,343	342	14	172
S. Africa			640	
Ukraine	360	240		
U.K.	200			57
Germany		240		46
Canada		215		2
S. Korea				

Chart 2: The chart shows the share of top countries in global arms imports in two five-year periods. India climbed one spot to become the world's biggest arms importer, displacing Saudi Arabia

Chart 3: The chart shows the share of top countries in global arms exports in two five-year periods. Russia's share in global arms exports reduced from 21% to 11%



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 14, 1974

Why is the national motto missing on notes?

New Delhi, March 13: A question about the national emblem motto Satyameva Jayate was the subject of a 20-minute exchange, which included digs at the Government and philosophical observations, in the Lok Sabha to-day.

Mr. Madhu Dandavate, the alert and quick-witted Socialist member, had asked the Government to explain the absence of the motto from currency notes and postal stamps.

Mr. F.H. Mohsin, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, replied that although the motto was an integral part of the national emblem, there were instructions that for technical reasons there could be a modification of the emblem for use on coins, currency notes and stamps.

To a supplementary from Mr. Dandavate, the Home Minister, Mr. Uma Shankar Dikshit, said the Government certainly did not regard the motto to be of marginal or secondary importance.

Mr. Dandavate asked whether one reason for dropping the motto from currency notes was because the rupee value had eroded and the Government realised that the inscription in the notes "I promise to pay the bearer a sum..." was a breach of truth.

Mr. Dikshit: It is a very poor joke. I refused to take note of it.

Mr. Mohsin said the question of printing the motto on coins and currency was referred by the Ministry to the then Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister (Mr. Morarji Desai). It was later considered in detail by the Finance Ministry. It was found that printing the motto was not possible as it would increase the lettering.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 14, 1924

Help from America

New York, Mar. 12: American bankers headed by the Morgans have established a credit of hundred million dollars in favour of the Banque of France.

London, Mar. 13: The French loan is fully secured by gold in the vaults of the Banque de France, which is acting for the French Government and will be used to stabilise French exchange and for other purposes. It is understood that the duration of the loan is for one year.

From Page One

SC to hear plea to include CJI on EC panel

The court had reasoned that "fierce independence, neutrality and honesty" envisaged in the institution of the EC required an end to government monopoly and "exclusive control" over appointments. However, the government had enacted a new law – The Chief Election Commission and other Election Commissions (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023 – to countermand the judgment. The law had replaced the CJI with a Cabinet Minister on the selection committee, giving the Centre a dominant role in the appointment process.

"... Democracy is a facet of the basic structure of the Constitution and in order to ensure free and fair elections and to maintain healthy democracy in our country, the Election Commission should be insulated from political and/or executive interference," the NGO argued.

The application filed by the NGO also pointed out that the ECI at present was under the sole charge of CEC Rajiv Kumar.

Governor stalls move to re-induct Ponmudy

The Governor has sought a clarification whether inducting Mr. Ponmudy into the Council of Ministers would be legally correct when his conviction and sentence has only been stayed in the interim, and not set aside by the top court. Parrying questions, a Raj Bhavan official said the "matter was under consideration of the Governor."

Following his conviction and sentencing in the assets case, the higher education portfolio held by Mr. Ponmudy was reallocated to his Cabinet colleague, R.S. Rajakannappan. However, after the Supreme Court order, Assembly Speaker M. Appavu on Wednesday rescinded his earlier notification declaring the Thirukkoyilur Assembly constituency (held earlier by Mr. Ponmudy) vacant.

HC dismisses Congress plea in tax dues case

The Congress approached the court after the ITAT on March 8 dismissed the party's application seeking a stay on the February 13 notice of the I-T department initiating recovery proceedings against it.

The assessing officer had raised a tax demand of more than ₹100 crore for the assessment year 2018-19 when the income was assessed to be over ₹199 crore. The court, however, said the Congress can approach ITAT by way of a fresh stay application bringing to its attention the fact that ₹65.94 crore has already been recovered.

"... that amount translating to roughly 48% of the outstanding demand. This changed circumstance is an aspect which, in our considered opinion, would merit consideration by the ITAT in case the petitioner chooses to move a fresh application for stay," the court said.

Kerala rejects Centre's offer of ₹5,000 crore

Mr. Sibal said that it seemed as if the Union government's note was prepared under the assumption that the State was not entitled to the amounts required to pay its people.

The note said Kerala's projected Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) for 2024-2025 is estimated at ₹11,19,906 crore. The net borrowing ceiling for Kerala is three per cent of its GSDP, which would amount to ₹33,597 crore.

Out of ₹33,597 crore, ₹4,711 crore has to be deducted for off-budget borrowing done by Kerala in 2021-2022. If Kerala, according to its demand, wants an advance of ₹15,000 crore before the end of March 2024, its borrowing space for the next financial year would be reduced to ₹6,664 crore, the note said.

Data on electoral bonds hand-delivered to EC: SBI

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The State Bank of India (SBI) on Wednesday informed the Supreme Court that details of electoral bonds anonymously purchased by contributors and encashed by political parties from April 2019 to February 15, 2024 were hand-delivered to the Election Commission (EC).

The SBI said a total of 22,217 electoral bonds were purchased and 22,030 were redeemed by political parties between April 1, 2019, and February 15, 2024. From April 1, 2019 to April 11 the same month, 3,346 bonds were purchased and 1,609 were redeemed by parties. Between April 12, 2019, and February 15, 2024, donors bought 18,871 bonds and 20,421 were redeemed by parties, the SBI affidavit said.

Though the Supreme Court had sought information only from April 12, 2019, the bank said the selling and redeeming of electoral bonds had started from April 1. The ECI has time till March 15 to compile and publish the information from the bank on its official website.

'Hacker-for-hire gang with links to Pune police planted emails on the computers of Bhima Koregaon accused'

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The alleged evidence used to incarcerate 16 people in the Bhima Koregaon case was "likely to have been implanted remotely through a hacker-for-hire mercenary gang infrastructure that has clients all over the world, but whose epicentre is in India", according to claims made in a new book.

In her book, *The Incarcerations: Bhima Koregaon And The Search For Democracy In India*, London School of Economics Professor Alpa Shah draws from interviews with cybersecurity analysts and researchers to allege that the hacker gang was connected to a Pune police officer.

In the book, she elaborates on the role of the police in hacking into the computers of at least three of the accused at Bhima Koregaon and planting the emails and files that were used to implicate them.

Professor Shah says the 16 arrests were used to divert attention away from the Hindutva instigators of a communal riot targeting Dalits, which took place on January 1, 2018 at Bhima Koregaon in Maharashtra.

'Linked to police'

As reported by *The Hindu* in December 2022, U.S.-based digital forensics firm Arsenal Consulting had found that the computers belonging to the late Father Stan Swamy and his co-accused Rona Wilson and Surendra Gadling in the Bhima Koregaon caste violence case were compromised by the same attacker.

On February 10, 2021, the same consultancy had found that a hacker had controlled Mr. Wilson's computer for a period of 22 months to plant documents, which led to an investigation that supposedly unravelled a Communist Party of India (Maoist) conspiracy to eliminate Prime Minister Narendra Modi "in another Rajiv Gandhi type incident".

Pune police raided Surendra Gadling's residence in the Bhima Koregaon caste violence case on April 17, 2018. FILE PHOTO

Professor Shah writes that a security analyst working with an email provider enabled Andy Greenberg, a U.S.-based cybersecurity journalist, to connect the hackers to an officer in Pune police.

In June 2022, Mr. Greenberg had published new research by SentinelOne, a California-based cybersecurity company, on a long-running hacking campaign which targeted hundreds of activists, journalists, academics, and lawyers in India from as far back as 2012. Those associated with the Bhima Koregaon case were notable targets.

'Shockingly brazen'

"These guys are not going after terrorists. They are going after human rights defenders and journalists. And it's not right," the security analyst is quoted as saying.

The book also quotes Mr. Greenberg as saying, "I cover a ton of state-sponsored hacking stories and usually figuring out who did it is incredibly complex. The actual identity of a hacker, figuring out which government agency is tied to a hacking operation, is like a Holy Grail. It's a very difficult thing to prove. To see this person just put their name and contact information in the backup for these email accounts, it was so bizarre. It was such a shockingly brazen thing to do."

Professor Shah writes that 16 largely unconnected people from different parts of India found themselves thrown into jail between 2018 and 2020, accused of being Maoist terrorists and "urban Naxals". She notes that they are all custodians of democracy; people who had persistently supported grassroots social movements against rising inequality, land grabs, and State atrocities; and protectors of environmental, land, and forest rights.

In 2018, the Pune police arrested Sudha Bharadwaj, Shoma Sen, Surendra Gadling, Mahesh Raut, Arun Ferreira, Sudhir Dhawale, Rona Wilson, Vernon Gonsalves, and Varavara Rao, for their alleged involvement in the Bhima Koregaon riots, based on a complaint lodged by a local builder, Tushar Damgude. He alleged that members of the CPI (Maoist) and the Kabir Kala Manch spread hatred through provocative songs, plays, and speeches delivered at the Elgar Parishad held at Shaniwar Wada in Pune on December 31, 2017. The police claimed that the event triggered violence the next day near the Koregaon Bhima war memorial located on the outskirts of Pune.

The case, initially investigated by the Pune police, was transferred to the National Investigation Agency on January 24, 2020. The NIA also arrested civil rights campaigner Gautam Navlakha; Anand Teltumbde, who taught at IIT Kharagpur; Hany Babu, an associate professor at Delhi University; and Jyoti Jagtap, Sagar Gorkhe, and Ramesh Gaichor, all members of the Kabir Kala Manch, a cultural organisation.

Canadian probe into Nijjar case is not over: New Zealand Deputy PM

New Zealand is one of the 'Five Eyes' grouping countries that have urged New Delhi to cooperate in the investigation; it is too early to comment on the issue, says Winston Peters, who is on a four-day visit to India for talks on bilateral ties

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Evidence in the Nijjar killing in Canada can only be known once Canadian authorities complete their investigation and take the trial to the court, New Zealand's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Winston Peters said, indicating it was too early to comment on the issue that has damaged India-Canada ties for the past few months. At the end of a four-day visit to India, the first by him as part of the recently formed coalition government in New Zealand, Mr. Peters also said that India and New Zealand shared common views about Indo-Pacific security challenges, and should work more closely together.

"Is the investigation complete?" he asked in response to a question from *The Hindu* on how New Zealand, a member of the 'Five Eyes' intelligence partnership with Canada, views Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in Parliament that Indian government agents were allegedly involved in the plot to assassinate a Khalistani separatist Canadian activist, who was killed in June 2023. Since then the issue has snowballed, especially since U.S. authorities filed the indictment of an Indian national for ordering the assassination of another Khalistani separatist, Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, at the behest of a senior Indian intelligence official. However, Canadian authorities, who made their charge publicly before the U.S., have yet to take their case to trial.

Shared visions: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with New Zealand Deputy PM Winston Peters on Wednesday. ANI

Mr. Peters' comments are significant as they come months after the previous New Zealand government had joined other 'Five Eyes' grouping countries in calling on New Delhi to cooperate in the Canadian investigation of the Nijjar killing, and subsequently expressed concerns over the Modi government's decision to ask half the Canadian High Commission's diplomats to leave India in the wake of the allegations.

"Indians are famous for understanding the law. If there is something suspicious, you wait for all the facts to come out," Mr. Peters said when asked about Canada's evidence in the case while speaking to journalists at a reception held in his honour. During his visit to Delhi, Mr. Peters met with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, and Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankar.

"India, like New Zealand, is an extremely diverse country in which varied communities come together to forge a common future. It was my pleasure to learn more about India's faith communities and its rich spiritual heritage during this visit," Mr. Peters said, according to a press release by the New Zealand High Commission.

"It is clear that New Zealand and India share common strategic perspectives about the security challenges our Indo-Pacific region faces as well as a commitment to do more together to meet them," Mr. Peters was quoted as saying after talks with Dr. Jaishankar.

In a social media post, Dr. Jaishankar said he welcomed New Zealand's decision to join the International Solar Alliance and discussed cooperation in the Commonwealth, UN Security Council reform, Indo-Pacific, and global issues. "[We] agreed on enhancing our political, trade & economic, security, connectivity, mobility, education and people to people ties," the External Affairs Minister wrote on Tuesday.

ED arrests Delhi resident in ₹4,978-cr. cheating case

Devesh K Pandey
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Delhi resident Ashish Kakkar for allegedly running a cybercrime syndicate that cheated people across the country of ₹4,978 crore over the past four years. The funds were siphoned off and diverted overseas.

Mr. Kakkar was picked up from a hotel in neighbouring Gurugram on March 2, the central agency said in a statement. The agency secured his 10-day custody from a special court till March 12. It did not say if he was subsequently remanded to further custody of the ED or sent to judicial custody by the court.

The ED alleged that the funds generated by the syndicate were layered and accumulated in the bank accounts of the companies/firms controlled by the "kingpin" and his associates. They were transferred abroad through the "*hawala*" route via "circular trading".

No stay on notification of fact-check unit, says HC

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

In a setback to the petitioners fighting against the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2023, the Bombay High Court on Wednesday refused to accept applications seeking a stay on the notification for the formation of a fact-check unit (FCU).

The rules empower the Centre to establish an FCU to identify fake, false, and misleading information about the government on social media platforms. The social media companies will then be compelled to remove the content or information declared as fake, false, or misleading, and if not, they will have to defend their reasons in court.

Mamata snaps ties with brother for opposing Howrah candidate

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chairperson Mamata Banerjee said on Wednesday that she was snapping ties with her younger brother Swapan Banerjee, popularly known as Babun.

The remarks came a day after Mr. Babun said he would contest the Lok Sabha election as an Independent from Howrah against two-time Trinamool MP Prasun Banerjee.

"From now on, please do not link my name with him. Not only me, other members of my family will also disassociate themselves from him," Ms. Banerjee told presspersons.

Mr. Babun, a popular name in Kolkata's sporting circles, has aired his differences with Mr. Prasun, who is a former footballer. "I have a lot of allergy towards Prasun Banerjee. I may contest as an Independent candidate against him," Mr. Babun had told a news channel.

Mamata Banerjee

Youngest of Ms. Mamata's six brothers, Mr. Babun is the president of the Bengal Olympic Association and the Bengal Hockey Association. He is the Secretary of the Bengal Boxing Association and is also in charge of the sports wing of the Trinamool. He was keen to contest from Howrah and had also registered as a voter there.

"Sometimes, people become greedy as they grow older. In every election, he creates problems. I do not like greedy people," Ms. Banerjee said, adding that she was unhappy with his conduct.

There has been talk that Mr. Babun was trying to reach out to the BJP. However, after the Chief Minister issued a strong statement, he softened his stance and said that he would not do anything against the wishes of his *didi* (elder sister).

In a post on X, the Trinamool said: "Mamata Banerjee reflected on her humble beginnings, recounting the days of toil and hardship at a milk depot to support her family and the betrayal she endured from those closest to her. But for her, 'family' transcends the confines of blood relations; it encompasses the people of Bengal as a collective...."

Uttarakhand Bill on Uniform Civil Code gets President's nod

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Uttarakhand has now become the first State in Independent India to have a Uniform Civil Code after President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday gave assent to the UCC Bill, 2024.

The Bill, which has kept tribal people out of its ambit, has banned practices like *halala*, *iddat*, and *talaq* (customs related to marriage and divorce in Muslim Personal Law).

The Assembly passed the Bill on on February 7. It ensures that women are given equal rights in matters related to property and inheritance rights.

"Under Article 201 of the 'Constitution of India', the President gave assent to the 'Uniform Civil Code Uttarakhand 2024' Bill passed by the Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly, on March 11 and it is published as Act Number 3, the year 2024, of Uttarakhand for general information," read the gazette notification issued by the State on Wednesday.

The Bill was one of the poll promises of the BJP during the Assembly election in Uttarakhand in 2022.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said that with the implementation of the UCC law, the government was committed to providing equal rights to all citizens. The Bill, which has 392 Sections under seven Schedules, is based on a 750-page draft, spread over four volumes, prepared by an expert committee formed by the government in June 2022, to examine the way UCC can be introduced in the State.

Gadkari, Thakur in BJP second list

Party releases second list of 72 candidates for the Lok Sabha election, covering 10 States and one Union Territory; Mysuru's erstwhile royal replaces MP Pratap Simha; Union Minister Piyush Goyal to contest from Mumbai North; party drops 29 MPs

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/HYDERABAD

The BJP on Wednesday released its second list of candidates for the Lok Sabha election, fielding Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari from Nagpur, Anurag Thakur from Hamirpur in Himachal Pradesh, Pralhad Joshi from Dharwad, and Piyush Goyal from Mumbai North.

The list of 72 candidates covers 10 States and one Union Territory. With this, the party has declared candidates for all seats in Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Tripura, and Uttarakhand. Around 29 MPs have been replaced.

In Karnataka, the BJP declared candidates for 20 out of 28 seats. It has replaced nine MPs. Mysuru MP Pratap Simha has been replaced by the scion of the Mysuru royal family, Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar. The party has also replaced former Chief Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda, with his Bangalore North seat going to Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje, who has shifted from Udupi-Chikmagalur. Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha president Tejaswi Surya has been repeated from Bangalore South.

BJP workers celebrate after the announcement of Union Minister Nitin Gadkari's name as the party's candidate from Nagpur. PTI

An interesting contest is brewing in Bangalore Rural with renowned cardiologist C.N. Manjunath – the son-in-law of JD(S) veteran and former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda – getting BJP ticket to contest against sitting MP D.K. Suresh, brother of Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

In Maharashtra, the BJP's list of 20 candidates saw at least two notable changes: former Minister Pankaja Munde, whose relations with the BJP top brass have been frigid for a while, was announced as the candidate from Beed in lieu of her sister, sitting MP Pritam Munde, while Union Minister Goyal was fielded from Mumbai North, in place of Gopal Shetty.

Delhi nominees

Replacing the sitting MPs in the East and NorthWest Delhi, Gautam Gambhir and Hans Raj Hans respectively, the BJP in its second candidate list has announced Delhi BJP general secretary and former East MCD Mayor Harsh Malhotra from East Delhi, and BJP general secretary and former North MCD Mayor Yogendra Chandolia from North West.

In Gujarat, the party has dropped sitting MPs from Surat, Valsad, Sabarkantha, Bhavnagar and Chhota Udepur.

In Uttarakhand, the BJP fielded two new candidates – former Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat replaced another former Chief Minister and ex-Union Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank in Haridwar, while in Garhwal, BJP's media cell chief Anil Baluni replaced a former Chief Minister, Tirath Singh Rawat.

In Haryana, the party dropped two MPs. Former Chief Minister Manohar Lal has been declared the candidate from Karnal in place of Sanjay Bhatia.

In Telangana, the BJP continues to hedge its bets on newcomers, with turncoats, mostly those from the BRS, getting ticket in the second list. Former BRS MPs A. Seetaram Naik and G. Nagesh got the party nod for the seats of Mahabubabad and Adilabad respectively. Former BRS MLA S. Saidi Reddy will contest from Nalgonda.

Saini govt. wins Haryana trust vote

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

The new Bharatiya Janata Party government in Haryana, led by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, won the motion of confidence by voice vote in the Assembly on Wednesday.

A Special Session of the Assembly had been convened to hold the vote of confidence after Mr. Saini was sworn in on Tuesday as the new Chief Minister, replacing Manohar Lal.

'Will work hard'

Mr. Saini, in his address, said the new government would work hard to serve the people of the State, just like how Haryana saw all-round development in the past nine-and-a-half years under the leadership of Mr. Lal.

In the 90-member Assembly, the BJP has 41 MLAs. It also enjoys the support of six Independents. The lone MLA of the Haryana Lokhit Party also extended his support to the BJP, ensuring that the government enjoys a comfortable majority.

Nayab Singh Saini

The main Opposition Congress has 30 MLAs, while the Indian National Lok Dal has one.

The Jannayak Janata Party (JJP), a former ally of the BJP, had issued a whip asking its 10 MLAs to remain absent from the House during voting on the confidence motion. JJP MLAs Devender Singh Babli, Ram Kumar Gautam, Ishwar Singh, Ram Niwas, and Jogi Ram Sihag, who were in the House, left when the trust vote was taken up.

'One nation, one poll' panel may submit report today

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The committee on "one nation, one election", headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind, may submit its report on Thursday.

The report is likely to recommend amending relevant articles of the Constitution and/or adding new sections to enable holding of simultaneous polls in the country.

Set up in September 2023, the committee was mandated to examine and make recommendations with regard to holding simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha, State Assemblies, municipalities, and panchayats.

The panel includes Home Minister Amit Shah, former Finance Commission Chairman N.K. Singh, former Lok Sabha Secretary-General Subhash Kashyap, and senior advocate Harish Salve.

BJP picks Chirag Paswan over his uncle

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The BJP has chosen Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti (Ram Vilas) Party over his uncle Pashupati Paras's Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party, ending days of speculation.

According to sources, the BJP has agreed to concede five seats to Mr. Paswan, including the Hajipur Lok Sabha constituency that his father and Dalit leader Ram Vilas Paswan won eight times. It is currently held by Mr. Paras.

A jubilant Mr. Paswan posted pictures of his meeting with BJP president J.P Nadda on social media. "We have together finalised the seat sharing in Bihar for the ensuing Lok Sabha polls. The same will be announced in due course," he wrote on X.

Chirag Paswan

The breakthrough came after Mr. Paswan's public posturing that he was ready to walk out of the alliance if the BJP did not give him a "respectable share".

Sources said for the past one week, senior BJP leader Mangal Pandey was told to settle the feud between the two LJP factions. But the talks bore no result as Mr. Paswan clearly laid down the condition that he would remain a part of the NDA only if his uncle's faction was not given any berth.

"We were clear from the beginning that the person who engineered a split in the party founded by Ram Vilas*ji* should not be accommodated in the NDA, either by giving them a Rajya Sabha berth or with seats in the Lok Sabha and Assembly polls," a senior leader close to Mr. Paswan said.

Sources said the BJP acceded to this demand based on the condition that Mr. Paswan would not press for the 2019 Lok Sabha seat-sharing formula.

In 2019, the united LJP under the late Ram Vilas Paswan, was offered six Lok Sabha seats in Bihar and one Rajya Sabha seat. The party won all six seats.

Adhir seeks details on EC candidates

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Ahead of Thursday's meeting of the selection committee to fill two vacancies in the Election Commission, created by the sudden resignation of Arun Goel and superannuation of Anup Chandra Pandey, Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury has written to the Law Ministry seeking details on the shortlisted candidates.

Mr. Chowdhury is a member of the selection committee, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which will choose the two new Election Commissioners (ECs). A Union Minister is the third member of the panel.

"I would request you to make available the 'dossier' containing biodatas of shortlisted candidates for the post of Election Commissioners before the meeting," Mr. Chowdhury is learnt to have said in his letter to Legislative Department Secretary Rajiv Mani.

The selection committee will peruse the names on the shortlist prepared by a search committee, which is headed by Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal. The search panel, which also includes the Union Home Secretary and the Secretary of the Department of Personnel and Training, will shortlist five names for each vacancy.

With the dates for the Lok Sabha election to be announced soon, the Congress has been targeting the government for reducing the EC to a one-man body.

On Wednesday, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh alleged that the EC's independence had eroded since the Modi-led government came to power at the Centre. "The EC has refused to meet INDIA parties on the issue of 100% VVPATs [Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails]. It is a Constitutional body but its independence has been severely eroded since 2014," Mr. Ramesh said in a post on X.

His comments came following reports that the police in Jammu had detained National Panthers Party (NPP) chairman and former minister Harsh Dev Singh along with his several supporters for trying to stage a protest outside Nirvachan Bhawan in Jammu against the "delay" in holding Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

In Maharashtra, Rahul announces five guarantees for women

Abhinay Deshpande
DHULE

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday announced five *Nari Nyay* guarantees, including ₹1 lakh annually for poor women and 50% reservation in Central government jobs, if his party is voted to power in the Lok Sabha election.

Addressing a *Mahila Sammelan* (women's conference) in Maharashtra's Dhule district as part of his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, the Wayanad MP promised to double the income of ASHA workers, women in Anganwadis, and those in mid-day meal schemes under '*Shakti ka Samman*' scheme. He also proposed plans to establish 'Savitribai Phule working women's hostels' in every district across the country.

Adhikar Maitri is the fifth guarantee under which a paralegal (nodal officer) will be appointed in every panchayat to educate women about their rights and help in the fight for their cases, he said.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, through a video message, said the party's guarantees were "*pathar ki lakeer* (set in stone)" and not a "*jumla*". "Before this, we announced guarantees on participatory justice, farmer justice, and youth justice. Our words are set in stone. This is our record from 1926 till now, when our opponents were not even born, we have been making manifestos and fulfilling those declarations," he said.

Accusing the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party of deceiving women on reservation issues, Mr. Gandhi promised immediate implementation if his party comes to power.

"Women have been fooled by the Centre over reservation [in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies] as the Bill pertaining to it has been passed by Parliament, but its implementation will take place after 10 years. Our guarantee of 50% reservation will be implemented immediately, without any survey," he said.

CSIR – INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL BIOLOGY
4, Raja SC Mullick Road, Jadavpur, Kolkata - 700032

Advt. No. R&C/572/2024 and R&C/573/2024
Vacancy Code : 5722401 and 5732401

A walk-in-interview for engagement of **JRF(Direct) and JRF(GATE)** will be held by CSIR-IICB at 4, Raja S. C. Mullick Road, Kolkata – 32, on 19.03.2024 and 21.03.2024 from 9:30 a.m. For details log on to our website **www.career.iicb.res.in**

Administrative Officer

Office of the Superintending Engineer PHED, Project
Circle, Jaipur, Sector 26, Near Ayush Bhawan, Pratap Nagar, Jaipur
Email: seproj.jai.phed@rajasthan.gov.in)
Notice Inviting Bid (NIB) No. 05/2023-24

Behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan, online short term bid is invited from eligible bidders for the Work for "Operation and Maintenance of Transmission Main System-II (7 Year O and M Period) from Surajpura to Chaksu" for costing of Rs. 12.14 Crores, last date of submission is 01.04.2024 upto 06:00 PM. As per criteria mentioned in the detailed NIT /tender document available on website: http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.

NIB CODE: PHE2324A6212 UBN: PHE2324WLOB14961

Sd
(Ram Chandra Rar)
Superintending Engineer
PHED, Project Circle, Jaipur

DIPR/C/2825/2024

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, जन स्वा. अभि. विभाग, जयपुर क्षेत्र- द्वितीय, गांधी नगर, जयपुर
ई-मेल: ace.region2jaipur@yahoo.com फोन नं. 0141-2702700
क्रमांक: अमुअ-II/जय/2022-23/22717-725 दिनांक: 04.03.2024

ई-निविदा सूचना 137-138/23-24

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से ""Work of Rural Water Supply of Village Theekriya and 10 Dhani (Habitation) in Gram Panchayat Theekriya for providing functional household tap connection under Jal Jeevan Mission, Tehsil Viratnagar, District Jaipur and work of Rural Water Supply of Village Rajnota and 13 Dhani (Habitation) in Gram Panchayat Theekriya for providing functional household tap connection under Jal Jeevan Mission, Tehsil Viratnagar, District Jaipur'' कार्य हेतु ई-प्रोक्यूमेंट के माध्यम से निविदा संख्या 137-138/23-24 के द्वारा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

उक्त दिनांक 04.03.2024 से डाउनलोड की जाकर दिनांक 27.03.2024 तक अपलोड की जा सकेगी, निविदा प्रपत्र व इससे संबंधित नियम व शर्तें विस्तृत विवरण निम्नलिखित वेबसाईट पर देखे जा सकते हैं।
(1) www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in (2) http://sppp.raj.nic.in (3) www.rajwater.gov.in
NIB No.: PHE2324A6213
UBN No.: PHE2324WSOB14962, PHE2324WSOB14963

(अमिताभ शर्मा) अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता
जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग
जयपुर क्षेत्र-द्वितीय जयपुर

DIPR/C/2739/2024

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, MAHARANA BHUPAL, GOVT. HOSPITAL, UDAIPUR.
BID NOTICE No. 21 Date 6-3-2024 (E-Tender)

On line Bids are invited from Principal Manufacturer/Authorized. Dealer/ Distributors for the following items **(Rate Contract for 2 Year).** The Bid documents can be downloaded from website https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in Details of this Bid notification and pre-qualification criteria can also be seen in NIB exhibited on website www.dipronline.org as well as www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in. Bids are to be submitted online in electronic format on website http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in

S. N.	Item name	Estt Total Cost (in Lakh)	Submission end date	UBN No.
1	Orthopedic Implants & Surgical item	250.00	15.4.2024 at 5.00 PM	(GHU 2324 GLRC00121)
2	Disposable Surgical Items.	150.00	15.4.2024 at 5.00 PM	(GHU 2324 GLRC00122)
3	Surgical Item for Opthalmology department	70.00	15.4.2024 at 5.00 PM	(GHU 2324 GLRC00123)
4	Surgical Item for department of Destistry	30.00	15.4.2024 at 5.00 PM	(GHU 2324 GLRC00124)
5	Furniture Repairing & colour	10.00	15.4.2024 at 5.00 PM	(GHU 2324 GLRC00125)

DIPR/C/2850/24 SUPERINTENDENT

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, ग्रामीण वृत्त- उदयपुर
क्रमांक: SERURALUDAIPUR.PWD@RAJASTHAN.GOV.IN
क्रमांक: 3398 दिनांक: 11.03.2024

निविदा सूचना संख्या 10/2023-24
NIB Code: PWD 2324A5032

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से ग्रामीण वृत उदयपुर के अधीन खण्ड कार्यालयों के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न सड़क निर्माण/ सड़क सुदृढ़ीकरण एवं नवीनीकरण कार्य के लिये उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/ डाक एवं दूरसंचार विभाग/ रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त पात्र श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष से पांच वर्ष की गारण्टी अवधि सहित निम्न कार्यों की निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त विवरण वेबसाईट "www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in", "http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in" तथा "http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in" पर देखा जा सकता है। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट "http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in" पर रजिस्टर करवाना आवश्यक है। निविदा अपलोड करने की तारीख 13.03.2024 से 01.04.2024 को सायं 6.00 बजे तक।

UBN No:
1. PWD2324WSOB21926 2. PWD2324WSOB21927 3. PWD2324WSOB21928
4. PWD2324WSOB21929 5. PWD2324WSOB21930 6. PWD2324WSOB21931

अधीक्षण अभियंता
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DIPR/C/2859/2024

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Government of Rajasthan
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www.tourism.rajasthan.gov.in, email- mktg-dot@rajasthan.gov.in
No.F 3( )/Mktg./ Pavilion Construction/DT/2024/20194 Dated: 06-03-2024
EOI No. 224/ 6/03/2024

Expression of interest
Expression of Interest for Agencies working in the field of construction and setting up of Rajasthan Tourism stand pavilions in domestic and international travel marts

Department of Tourism, Government of Rajashan invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for Agencies working in the field of construction and setting up of Stand Pavilions in domestic and international travel marts for Rajasthan Tourism with proven experience and credentials.

Name of work	Estimated Cost of work (in Rs.) excluding taxes	E-Bid invited from	Bid Security	Time and date for submission of bid	Time and date for opening of technical bid
Construction and setting up of Stand Pavilions in domestic and international travel marts for Rajasthan Tourism	3.50 Crore	06.03.2024	2% of the bid value i.e. Rs. 7.00 Lakh	27.03.2024 at 12.00 Noon	27.03.2024 at 3.00 PM

(Note: Estimated cost of work is tentative)

The EOI can be downloaded from www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in (e-procurement portal of the State Government) and www.tourism.rajasthan.gov.in. Duly filled bids can be submitted online latest by 27/03/2024 by 12.00 Noon. E-Bid processing fee of Rs. 1500/- (non-refundable) in favour of MD, RISL, Jaipur will have to be deposited through e-GRAS portal and Bid document fee of Rs. 1000. (non-refundable) in favour of Director, Department of Tourism, Rajasthan, Jaipur and bid security. of Rs. 7.00 Lakh (2% of the bid value) will have to be deposited through e-GRAS portal/ DD/ BC and submitted physically to the Department before last date and tine of submission of EOI.
Interested bidders eligible as per eligibility criteria may submit their response to the EOI by 27.03.2024 till 12.00 Noon. Time and date for opening of technical bid is 27/03/2024 at 3.00 pm. The detailed EOI document can be download from www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.tourism.rajasthan.gov.in from date 06.03.2024. For any other information contact on +91-141-2822835 or email - mktg-dot@rajasthan.gov.in
UBN No. TOU2324SLOB00069.

(Sumita Saroch)
Joint Director

DIPR/C/2841/2024

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OFFICE OF THE TRANSPORT COMMISSIONER-CUM-CHAIRMAN STATE TRANSPORT AUTHORITY, ODISHA, CUTTACK
Notice No: 3963/LX-47/2024/TECH/TC Date: 12/03/2024

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR SELECTION OF SUCCESSFUL BIDDER FOR "SETTING UP OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS (EVCS) AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN ODISHA"

E-Tenders are invited from intending bidders for Selection of successful bidder for **"Setting up of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (EVCS) at various locations in Odisha"**. Interested bidders are advised to study the RFP document carefully, before submitting their proposals, in response to this RFP Notice. Submission of proposal in response to this notice shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of this document with full understanding of its terms, conditions, and implications. Please refer to the website **www.odishatransport.gov.in** and **www.enivida.odisha.gov.in** for details.

Sd/-
Transport Commissioner, Odisha

JJ-71: OIPR-38003/11/0049/2324

Tel. 06766-258301(O), Email ID: se_nerwkjr@rediffmail.com
GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: KEONJHAR
Identification No. PMGSY / Online NCB No.430 / 2023-24
No. 1214 // Date: 06-03-2024

1. Name of the work :- Repair / Maintenance of the Rural roads Constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the District of Keonjhar.
2. Total No. of Package :- 08 (Eight) Nos. individual work.
3. Estimated Cost of individual package :- Rs.7.55 Crore (Approximately)
4. Period of completion :- 60 Calendar Months.
5. Other details :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	No. of Work	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	To
1	2	3	4	5
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar	PMGSY Online NCB No.430	08 Nos.	11.03.2024 at 11.00 A.M	27.03.2024 Upto 5.00 P.M

● Further details can be seen from the website: www.pmgsytenders.gov.in

O-2765 : Chief Engineer, R.W. Circle, Keonjhar.
OIPR-25177/11/0078/2324

E-mail ID: cebuildings_orissa@yahoo.co.in; Tel. - (0674)-2391523
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA
NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR
No. B-IV-H-(H&D)-66/22 Letter No.- 11071 Dt. 7th Mar., 2024
Invitation For Bids - Bid Identification No. CE (B) - 64 / 2023-24

1.	The Chief Engineer, Buildings on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites bids from reputed Indian firms registered with the State Government and bidders of equivalent Grade / Class registered with Central Government / MES / Railways for the Building works (STP, ETP) on turnkey basis (i.e. Design & execution of ETP & STP)		
2.	Nature of work	:	Building Works (Establishment of STP & ETP)
3.	Nos. of work	:	02 Nos.
4.	Cost of Bid Document	:	₹ 10,000/- (Each)
5.	Class of Contractor	:	Special & Super
6.	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	:	From dt.13.03.2024 to 05:30 P.M of dt.03.04.2024.
7.	Pre-bid meeting	:	Dt.19.03.2024 at 11.00 AM
8.	Last dt. of Submission of Bid (Online)	:	Dt.03.04.2024 up to 5.30 PM
9.	Last dt. of Submission of hardcopy	:	Dt.08.04.2024 up to 5.30 PM
10	Date of Opening of Bid	:	Dt. 09.04.2024 at 11:30 AM
11	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum /corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.		

B-1913 : Chief Engineer, Buildings (I/C), Odisha
OIPR-34117/11/0153/2324

INBRIEF

Proposal to add 3 lakh NCC cadet vacancies approved

A proposal for expansion of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) with the addition of three lakh cadet vacancies has been approved by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. This expansion is expected to cater to the increasing demand for the NCC from educational institutions throughout the country, the Defence Ministry said. It will lead to the proportionate distribution of vacancies, and would reduce the waiting list of institutions aspiring for the NCC, the Ministry said. The expansion plan encompasses the establishment of four new group headquarters and the addition of two new NCC units.

Nagaland church body says LGBTQ+ lifestyle unacceptable

The LGBTQ+ lifestyle is unacceptable according to the biblical principles, an apex church organisation in Christian-majority Nagaland has said. LGBTQ+ expands to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and all other sexual orientations. A statement issued by the Nagaland Baptist Church Council (NBCC) on Tuesday affirming its opposition to LGBTQ+ lifestyle came a week after an extremist group asked the "propagators of the community" to quit Naga-inhabited areas. "We are not against the people who struggle with an LGBTQ+ lifestyle. Love the person but hate the sin should always be our approach," the statement read.

Home Ministry to launch CAA helpline to assist applicants

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs said it would soon launch a helpline to assist applicants for Indian citizenship under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019. "Applicants can make free calls from anywhere in India and get information related to CAA-2019. Helpline to be available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.," the Ministry posted on X. Users are required to register on the portal (*https://indiancitizenshiponline.nic.in*). A mobile application, 'CAA-2019', has also been readied. All documents, along with photographs are to be uploaded online, and applications will be processed after a background check by security agencies and the payment of ₹50.

Maharashtra's Ahmednagar to be called Ahilyanagar

The Maharashtra Cabinet on Wednesday formally approved the renaming of Ahmednagar district to Ahilyanagar after the 18th Century Maratha queen Ahilyabai Holkar. The decision to rename the district had already been announced by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde in May last year on the 298th birth anniversary of Ahilyabai Holkar. The renaming of Ahmednagar follows the Mahayuti government's decision to rename Aurangabad district as Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar and Osmanabad as Dharashiv. The demand for renaming Ahmednagar was started by BJP leader and MLC Gopichand Padalkar, an influential leader of the Dhangar (shepherd) community.

SC stops Assam govt. move to de-notify rhino habitat

The Forest Department issued the notification in 1998 without consulting the Cabinet or Revenue Department, says State; court says it won't stand in the way of protecting rights of forest dwellers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday froze the Assam government's move to withdraw an almost 26-year-old notification constituting the Pobitora wildlife sanctuary, which hosts one of the largest rhino populations in the country.

"The State government was not right in resolving to withdraw the notification dated March 17, 1998 notifying Pobitora wildlife sanctuary.... We direct that no further steps be taken with respect to the withdrawal of the notification dated March 17, 1998 by the State," a Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and Sandeep Mehta ordered.

The Assam Cabinet had on March 10 withdrawn the notification issued by the State Forest Department in 1998. The Cabinet decision of March 10 said the notification was issued unilaterally by the Forest department without consulting the Revenue Department or even the Chief Minister.

The government reasoned that declaration of the sanctuary was made without settling the rights of the people living in villages in the area, including Thengabhanga, Murkata and Mayong. These villagers belonged to the marginalised communities and had been residing in the area even before Independence.

Protected land: An adult Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros walks with a calf inside the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Panel set up

The government, having withdrawn the 1998 notification declaring the wildlife sanctuary, had also constituted a committee to look into both the rights and claims of the forest dwellers in the area as well as taking a considered decision, this time, to declare the Pobitora region as a wildlife sanctuary.

"We will not permit any de-notification. Withdrawing a notification declaring a wildlife sanctuary is not your answer. Such withdrawals cannot be done without the permission of the National Board of Wildlife. Besides, the Supreme Court has also passed an order against de-reservation of national parks, sanctuaries and forests," Justice Gavai clarified to the Assam counsel, senior advocate Nalin Kohli.

Amicus curiae, advocate K. Parameswar, said the withdrawal was "*ex facie* illegal".

"The notification was done unilaterally by the Forest department in 1998. The Revenue Department or the Cabinet was not involved," Mr. Kohli said.

But Justice Mehta said the declaration of the sanctuary in 1998 was an "act of government". "Then how can you now disown it?" Justice Mehta asked.

Mr. Kohli said the idea behind the withdrawal was not to close the Pobitora wildlife sanctuary, but to correct an error regarding the demarcation of lands.

"Fresh notification will be issued. It was not done properly in 1998. Our intention is to do the right thing. It only came to our attention now. Pobitora is our pride," Mr. Kohli submitted.

"The fact that the Forest Department did it without consultation came to light only 25 years later?" Justice Gavai asked Mr. Kohli.

The court, however, clarified that its order staying the withdrawal of the 1998 notification would not stand in the way of the State "doing something to protect the rights of the forest dwellers".

The court asked the State to file a detailed counter-affidavit by the next hearing.

PM launches portal for marginalised sections

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Launching the Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthan evam Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan (PM-SURAJ) portal for credit support to entrepreneurs from disadvantaged sections of society virtually on Wednesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "This is a testament to our commitment to provide dignity and justice to the underprivileged. Modi gives you this guarantee - this campaign of development and respect for the deprived class will intensify in the coming five years."

Mr. Modi also disbursed around ₹720 crore worth of credit to one lakh beneficiaries from the Scheduled Castes, Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Safai Karamcharis. The portal will be a one-stop point where people from disadvantaged sections of society can apply for and monitor the progress of all loan and credit schemes already available to them.

RSS to pass resolution on Ram Temple

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) will pass a resolution on the Ram Temple during its *Pratinidhi Sabha*, the meeting of the highest decision-making body of Sangh, scheduled to be held from March 15 to 17 in Nagpur, said the organisation's all-India publicity head, Sunil Ambekar, on Wednesday.

The annual meeting, which aims at setting the course of action and programmes of the RSS for the rest of the year, will also witness deliberation over various issues prevailing in the country, including Sandeshkhali and the farmers' protest.

He added that the plans prepared for this year will hold special importance as the RSS is completing 100 years of its formation in 2025.

BJP president J.P. Nadda, the heads and organising secretaries of 36 Sangh outfits, and other RSS-affiliated organisations will take part in the *Pratinidhi Sabha*.

Panel recommends ban on 'ferocious dogs'

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

An expert committee constituted by the Department of Animal Welfare and Husbandry, Ministry of Agriculture, has recommended that certain breeds of "ferocious dogs" be prohibited from being kept as pets.

An official letter has gone out from the department to all States listing out these dog breeds as well as instructions to no longer register licences that permit their sale.

The expert committee was constituted after citizen groups complained of attacks on people – sometimes fatal – by these dogs. There is also a petition being deliberated upon in the Delhi High Court requesting it to ban certain breeds. The High Court, in December 2023 had said it would decide on the issue "in three months."

The breeds include mixed and cross-breeds like pit bull terrier, tosa inu, American Staffordshire terrier, fila brasileiro, dogo argentino, American bulldog, boerboel, kangal, central Asian shepherd dog, caucasian shepherd dog, south mastiffs, rottweiler, terrier, rhodesian ridgeback, wolf dogs, canario, akbash dog, Moscow guard dog, Cane corso and dogs commonly classified as bandog.

These rules are expected to be implemented by local authorities. Dogs that have already been kept as pets must be sterilised to ensure that further breeding does not happen, said the letter signed by Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture.

Prasar Bharati launches news sharing service

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur on Wednesday launched 'PB-SHABD' – Prasar Bharati's news sharing service and the revamped websites of *DD News* and *Akashvani News*.

Mr. Thakur said news organisations would be provided with clean feed and they would not have to carry the *Doordarshan* logo. He said the SHABD service was being provided free of cost for the first year as an introductory offer and would provide news stories in all major Indian languages across 50 categories.

The PB-SHABD has been designed to provide daily news feeds in video, audio, text, and other formats to subscribers.

Modi, British PM assess progress on free trade agreement negotiations

The Hindu Bureau
LONDON

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak spoke over the phone on Tuesday assessing the progress made on negotiating a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), as both countries face general elections.

New Delhi and London have been negotiating a deal since January 2022, but an agreement has thus far remained out of reach with British negotiators returning from India earlier after the 14th round of talks.

As the U.K. negotiating team left for India on March 4, a British official had said, it was a "last-gasp attempt to clinch an FTA before the Indian election campaign pauses talks", according to a report in *The Guardian*.

Face to face: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his British counterpart, Rishi Sunak, in New Delhi, in this file photo.

On Tuesday, Mr. Modi tweeted that he and Mr. Sunak had reaffirmed their commitment to the "early conclusion" of a "mutually beneficial" agreement.

"The Prime Minister [Mr. Sunak] reiterated the importance of reaching an ambitious outcome on goods and services," Downing Street said in a readout, adding that the two Prime Ministers agreed to remain in close contact.

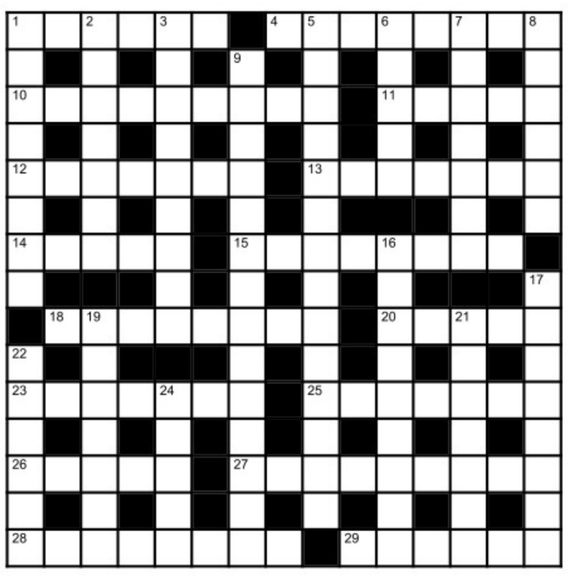
The readouts also said the leaders discussed the overall partnership. Mr. Modi and Mr. Sunak discussed regional and global developments, according to the Indian government readout.

TH CROSSWORD + 14122

(set by KrisKross)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Churchman in the olden days, ready to control Italy (6)
4 Beginner shot selfies that are dull (8)
10 Places to go excitedly? Some nude resorts (9)
11 Weakness of a boy overwhelmed by success (5)
12 Prepare to print form before game of tennis (7)
13 Women's work, mostly performed by men (7)
14 Journalists in opening of movie "Batman returns" (5)
15 Plane bearing royal crosses border (8)
18 Chronicle of tailless tigress running wild (8)
20 Dressing for dance (5)
23 Champion exhausted, nervous in track (7)
25 Unfriendly animal briefly controlled by force (7)
26 Shakespearean character lofty in speech (5)
27 Abruptly put out rage inside - could be harmful (9)
28 "Lived in camp" - entertaining article by journalist (8)
29 Supports chances (6)

Down

1 Temporary leave, followed by discharge? On the contrary (4-4)
2 Weak batting by pair regularly included in team - finally game lost (7)
3 Goddess of performing arts and studies, always in white basically (9)
5 DI eventually succeeded in arresting criminal for financial wrongdoing (7,7)
6 Encourage those having spirit (5)
7 Cover containing rupee became wrinkled (7)
8 Start a journey with extremely suave, well-dressed gentleman (3,3)
9 Run inside, kiss wife, winning good game (8,6)
16 Unyielding boss at last is splitting target (9)
17 Gives a name to pet bass swimming outside island (8)
19 Feeling sorry - no time to accept love (7)
21 Spooner cites items required to imprison humorist (7)
22 Squint-eyed like a German philosopher (6)
24 Treat tips of nails, oily locks and skin here? (5)

SUDOKU

5								
	9	2					6	
6			1		5		8	
		8	5	7		2		
	3		2		4		5	
		5		8	3	1		
	4		8		7			2
	5					3	4	
								6

No.SS6097 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

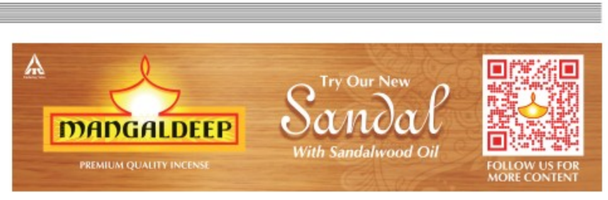
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

E	X	P	L	I	C	I	T		I	S	L	A	N	D
N		E		B		N				O		N		A
M	A	N	T	I	S	S	A		S	L	O	G	A	N
I		I		Z		U		I		I		E		D
T	O	N	G	A		R	A	D	I	C	A	L	L	Y
Y		S				E		L		I				I
	Q	U	A	S	A	R		I	S	T	H	M	U	S
S		L		I				O		A				H
C	H	A	N	N	E	L		S	T	R	A	I	T	
I				G		A		I				N		W
E	A	R	M	A	R	K	E	D		F	I	F	T	Y
N		A		P		E		E		J		R		V
C	A	N	Y	O	N			S	A	B	O	T	A	G	E
E		G		R				R		R		M		R
S	K	E	W	E	R			S	M	I	D	G	E	O	N

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	2	9	3	5	6	4	7	1
4	7	3	8	1	2	6	5	9
5	1	6	4	7	9	3	2	8
3	6	1	5	8	7	2	9	4
7	8	5	2	9	4	1	3	6
2	9	4	1	6	3	7	8	5
6	4	8	7	2	5	9	1	3
9	5	2	6	3	1	8	4	7
1	3	7	9	4	8	5	6	2



FAITH

The power of women

Some may believe International Women's Day is a modern day construct; however, celebration of women power is an ancient one in our culture, dating back eons. Karadaiyan Nonbu is one such, said Suchithra Balasubramanian in a discourse.

We are all asked to chant, *Lokah Samastah Sukhino Bhavantu* (May all beings everywhere be happy and free). One should always pray for the well-being of others, since God comes rushing to the aid of those one prays for. The observance of Karadaiyan Nonbu is in line with this principle. Also known as Gauri puja, on this day, women pray to Goddess Devi for the longevity and health of their husband.

Falling in the cusp of the end of the Tamil month Maasi and start of Panguni, the nonbu celebrates Savitri's unwavering love and presence of mind, which helped her wrest her husband literally from the jaws of death.

At the end of a year of the marriage, Yama, the God of Death, arrived to claim Satyavan's life. Known as someone who showed neither fear nor favour in his duty, he was nevertheless moved by Savitri's love. He offered her a boon. The clever woman said she wanted to birth a few children. Yama quickly granted her wish, before realising that to do so, he would have to allow Satyavan live.

INBRIEF

Ramco commences transport on dedicated freight corridor

Ramco Cements said it had begun to move crushed limestone from its mines in Budawada to its integrated cement plant in Jayanthipuram in Andhra Pradesh through the dedicated freight corridor inaugurated under the Gati Shakti cargo terminal project on Tuesday. The railway wagons with crushed limestone from Budawada mines will travel 8.3 km to the Jayanthipuram plant unloading point, of which 3.4 km will be Ramco Cements' dedicated sidings.

Royal Sundaram, Dvara tie up to market insurance products

Royal Sundaram General Insurance Co. Ltd. said it had partnered Chennai-based Dvara KGFS to provide customers access to a comprehensive range of its general insurance products across the country. "Our extensive suite of general insurance products will now be accessible across over 400 Dvara KGFS branches, empowering customers with comprehensive, customised, and affordable solutions," Royal Sundaram MD Amit S. Ganorkar said in a statement.

India allows RBI to import gold without import levies

India has allowed its central bank to import gold without paying import levies, the government said in a notification issued late on Tuesday. Gold importers need to pay basic customs duty and Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess. As of September 2023, the RBI held 800.79 metric tonnes of gold, including gold deposits of 39.89 tonnes. Of that, 388.06 tonnes is held overseas and 372.84 tonnes domestically, RBI said in its reserve management report. REUTERS

'Ease e-commerce for MSME exports'

Govt.. must simplify merchandise trade processes, establish a single national trade portal for approvals and compliances in order to help spur exports by smaller players, Niti Aayog and Foundation for Economic Development recommend in report

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government must make it easier for smaller firms to export their goods via e-commerce platforms, simplify merchandise trade processes and establish a single national trade portal for all approvals and compliances, the Niti Aayog recommended in a report on boosting exports from Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

While China exported $200 billion worth of goods through e-commerce in 2022, India exported only $2 billion, and a key reason for this gap is the cumbersome compliance process associated with exports, especially when it comes to payment reconciliation, which is particularly challenging for new or small exporters, the public policy think tank noted in the report.

Stressing that e-commerce resolves market access issues that are a significant obstacle hindering MSME exports, the Foundation for Economic Development, which authored the report, said it was essential to create a distinction between 'Exporter on Record' and 'Seller on Record', introduce annual financial reconciliation process for e-commerce exporters and exempt import duties on rejects that come back as returns.

Unclog the pipe

Government must make it easier for smaller firms to export their goods through e-commerce platforms, moots Niti Aayog

- While China exported $200 billion of goods via e-commerce in 2022, India shipped only $2 billion
- Key reason for this gap is cumbersome compliance process tied to exports, especially for payment reconciliation

- Think tank moots exempting import duties on rejects that come back as returns

'Unreliable' data

While MSMEs are said to account for 38.4% of India's manufacturing output and contribute 45% of exports, the report's authors reckoned that MSME export numbers were "almost certainly inflated" and needed to be more accurately measured. The current estimates were "likely unreliable" as they relied on an outdated list of reserved sectors for MSMEs, they wrote.

MSMEs can compete in export markets in sectors like handicrafts, handloom textiles, ayurveda and herbal supplements, leather goods, imitation jewellery and wooden products, which have global demand of more than $340 billion.

'REITs, InvITs and Muni bonds offer high growth opportunity'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) and Muni (Municipal) bonds have emerged as high growth areas for investment, Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch said on Wednesday.

"Within SEBI we have done a very simple exercise, sort of a back of the envelope exercise where we asked ourselves, how big can this market be? And we reached the conclusion that just as our

Madhabi Puri Buch

equity market cap is about one time of the GDP, we believe that the total value of our REITs, INVITs and Muni bonds ecosystem can be another one time of GDP," Ms. Buch said while addressing the SEBI-NISM Research Conference.

"So that is the opportunity for growth which is available to us as a nation," she said adding that the value of REITs, INVITs and Muni bonds would far exceed the value of goods and services produced by the corporate sector today.

She said fractional ownership of real estate and fractional ownership of infrastructure is where the strength of India will lie.

Ms. Buch said SEBI as a regulator has ensured that the governance and disclosure elements of these asset classes provide comfort and confidence to retail investors so that they can go and invest without any apprehensions.

Sensex declines 1.2% as selling pressure widens

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Key benchmark indices slid sharply on Wednesday as investors turned wary after SEBI's chief flagged signs of 'froth' in the small- and mid-cap segments.

The S&P BSE Sensex plunged 906 points, or 1.23%, to 72,761.89 points. Sensex stocks which lost the most included Power Grid (7.28%), NTPC (6.67%), Tata Steel (5.87%) and Tata Motors (4.28%).

Adani stocks tumble

Adani Group stocks also declined across the board, led by Adani Total Gas, which tumbled 9.5%, and Adani Green, which plunged 9.07%. While flagship Adani Enterprises fell 6.91%, Adani Ports shed 6.97%, Adani Power lost 4.99% and Adani Energy Solutions dropped 8.54%.

The NSE's Nifty50 fell 1.51% to 21,997.70 points.

"The selling pressure was widespread... metal, realty and energy lost over 5% each," said Ajit Mishra, SVP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd. "The broader indices extended their prevailing bias and lost in the range of 4-5%.

"We suggest maintaining negative bias in the index now and utilising rebounds to create short positions," he added.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	72,762	-1.23
US Dollar	82.81	-0.01
Gold	65,950	-0.60
Brent oil	83.39	1.83

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2906.20	-216.30
Adani Ports	1209.55	-91.75
Apollo Hosp	6008.40	-136.40
Asian Paints	2860.15	-16.00
Axis Bank	1080.40	-16.60
Bajaj Auto	8384.90	-142.80
Bajaj Finserv	1573.15	-20.40
Bajaj Finance	6456.15	20.10
Bharti Airtel	1168.75	-35.50
BPCL	597.75	-27.70
Britannia Ind	4856.65	-12.50
Cipla	1471.25	5.50
Coal India	417.05	-32.25
Divis Lab	3479.80	-97.95
Dr Reddys Lab	6303.80	1.65
Eicher Motors	3735.55	-75.20
Grasim Ind	2149.10	-34.90
HCL Tech	1631.50	-4.10
HDFC Bank	1460.40	0.85
HDFC Life	610.05	-11.50
Hero MotoCorp	4512.10	-146.80
Hindalco	507.00	-21.95
Hind Unilever	2312.60	-65.55
ICICI Bank	1083.95	7.10
IndusInd Bank	1502.65	-30.40
Infosys	1611.40	-1.55
ITC	422.45	18.00
JSW Steel	792.95	-24.85
Kotak Bank	1729.55	9.20
L&T	3538.55	-83.10
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5195.00	-14.20
M&M	1853.70	-41.45
Maruti Suzuki	11390.15	-119.75
NestleIndia	2582.95	-7.20
NTPC	322.50	-22.25
ONGC	255.35	-15.05
PowerGrid Corp	264.30	-20.85
Reliance Ind	2864.35	-86.50
SBI Life	1487.35	-29.05
State Bank	747.25	-12.45
Sun Pharma	1558.60	-25.70
TataConsumerProduct	1178.95	-36.25
Tata Motors	973.20	-43.30
Tata Steel	143.65	-8.85
TCS	4149.00	-43.25
Tech Mahindra	1277.20	-15.10
Titan	3625.70	-123.10
UltraTech Cement	9593.55	-21.95
UPL	451.90	-22.15
Wipro	504.40	-6.45

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on March 13

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.66	82.98
Euro	90.34	90.70
British Pound	105.68	106.10
Japanese Yen (100)	55.88	56.10
Chinese Yuan	11.49	11.54
Swiss Franc	94.10	94.48
Singapore Dollar	61.99	62.24
Canadian Dollar	61.25	61.49
Malaysian Ringitt	17.63	17.71
Australian Dollar	54.61	54.82

Source:Indian Bank

FinMin asks PSU banks to review gold loan portfolio

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The finance ministry has directed all state-owned banks to review their gold loan portfolio as instances of non-compliance with regulatory norms have been noticed by the government.

The Department of Financial Services (DFS) in a communication addressed to heads of public sector banks has asked them to look at their system and processes related to gold loan.

"We have asked banks to undertake comprehensive review of the gold loan business," Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi told PTI.

Petrol, shelter costs drove U.S. inflation higher in February

Reuters
WASHINGTON

U.S. consumer prices increased 3.2% year-on-year in February, with core CPI rising 3.8%, amid higher gasoline and shelter costs, suggesting stickiness in inflation that cast doubts on whether the Federal Reserve would start cutting interest rates in June.

February marked the second straight month of firmer inflation readings. Inflation-weary Americans, however, got some relief from their grocery bills, as food prices were unchanged. U.S. central bank officials, including Fed Chair Jerome Powell have indicated they are in no rush to start lowering borrowing costs.

'Latest data further reinforce the case for a patient and vigilant approach from Fed officials'

"Officials want to see some more evidence of a sustained deceleration in prices towards target before they pivot to rate cuts," said Rubeela Farooqi, chief U.S. economist at High Frequency Economics. "The latest data further reinforce the case for a patient and vigilant approach from Fed officials as they consider future policy decisions," she added.

'Retail play in F&O eyeing instant profits, is a concern'

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Chief Economic Advisor V. Anantha Nageswaran on Wednesday said he is "worried" about retail investors' play in risky Futures and Options (F&O) segment for instant profits.

Speaking at a conference organised by capital markets regulator SEBI, Mr. Nageswaran said "The biggest risk for sustained capital formation and sustained economic growth is... in our short-termism." Mr. Nageswaran asked India Inc. to reflect on corporate governance practices and analyse its own conduct, while discussing allowing corporate groups to promote banks.

'First chip from Tata plant to be out in 2026'

Press Trust of India
DHOLERA

The first set of semiconductors will start rolling out from Tata Electronics' plant here in December 2026, Union Minister for Communications and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Wednesday.

Speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony of Tata Group and CG Power chip plants, Mr. Vaishnaw said India would be among the top five chip ecosystems in the world by 2029.

"The first chip from Dholera plant will be out in December 2026 and chip from Micron plant will be out by December 2024," the minister said.

He said Tata's Dholera plant will make chips in 28,

Ashwini Vaishnaw

50, 55 nanometer node.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday laid the foundation of three chip plants – two units by Tata Electronics and the third by CG Power – entailing total investment of ₹1.26 lakh crore.

These chips driven by advanced technology will cater to multiple sectors.

'CG Semi to commence semiconductor chip operations in 3 years'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Sanand in Gujarat emerging as India's chip cluster, says CG Semi Chairman Vellayan Subbiah

CG Semi Pvt. Ltd., a subsidiary of CG Power and Industrial Solutions Ltd., will commence production at its ₹7,600 crore Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility in Sanand in three years, said its Chairman Vellayan Subbiah.

"For India to become a truly global player in the semiconductor space, it is critical that we build a semiconductor cluster in a concentrated location similar to global leaders such as Taiwan," he said in a company statement.

"With a few facilities already announced in Gujarat, there are early signs of the State emerging as this cluster. We are very keen to establish India's semiconductor ecosystem and plan to build a world-class OSAT facility at Sanand. We intend to commence production in the next 2.5 to 3 years," Mr. Subbiah added.

CG Semi was incorporated on March 8, the Murugappa group firm said in a regulatory filing.

MALABAR CANCER CENTRE
(POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF ONCOLOGY SCIENCES & RESEARCH)
NABH Accredited (an autonomous Institution under Government of Kerala
Thalassery, Kannur, Kerala - 670 103,Phone :+91 490 2399207, 2355881
Fax: 91 490 2355880,Email: mcctly@gmail.com, Web: www.mcc.kerala.gov.in
540/MCC/3107/2023/E3/GAD 12/03/2024

EXISTING AND ARISING VACANCIES
Immediately require on permanent basis :
Professor - Radiology/Radio Diagnosis
Scale of pay – 168900 - 220400, Level 14 A of 7th CPC
Assistant Professor
Scale of pay – 101500 - 167400, Level 12 of 7th CPC
1. Clinical Hematology 2. Medical Oncology
Online Applications are invited for the aforementioned posts on permanent basis. The last date for submitting online application is 11/04/2024, 5 PM.
E7341MCC/224/2022-GAD-E4/71 08/03/2024

EXISTING AND ARISING VACANCIES ON CONTRACT BASIS
Online applications are invited for the post of Professor cum Vice Principal, Professor, in INSeR and Professor Medical biochemistry, Staff Nurse, Resident Staff Nurse, and Patient Care Assistant in MCC - PGIOSR on Contract Basis. The last date for submitting online application is 22/03/2024 at 05.00 PM.
*MCC invites applications for Non-Stipendiary Training Programs in various disciplines.
Details are available in www.mcc.kerala.gov.in Sd/- Director

E-mail:- acejaipur2.pwd-rj/acezoneii@yahoo.com
कार्यालय अति. मुख्य अभियंता, सा.नि.वि., सम्भाग- द्वितीय, जयपुर
पी.डब्ल्यू.डी. कैम्पस, जैकब रोड, जयपुर क्लब के सामने, जयपुर
फोन:- 0141-2226537, एक्स-299 फैक्स: 0141-2226537
क्रमांक- 2307 दिनांक- 07.03.2024
अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना संख्या-44/ पीएमजीएसवाई/2023-24
अलवर एवं जयपुर जिले में ग्रामीण सड़कों के नवीनीकरण कार्यों के कुल 04 पैकेज हेतु इच्छुक निविदादाताओं द्वारा दिनांक 21.03.2024 को दोपहर 12.00 बजे तक अल्पकालीन निविदाएं आमन्त्रित की जाती हैं। अल्पकालीन निविदा से संबन्धित अन्य विवरण राज्य की उपापन पोर्टल http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in एवं विभागीय वेबसाईट http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in, http://pmgsytendersraj.gov.in पर देखे जा सकते हैं। उपापन की अनुमानित लागत रुपये 942.87 लाख है।

S.No.	UBN	S.No.	UBN
1.	PWD2324WSOB21597	3	PWD2324WSOB21669
2.	PWD2324WSOB21596	4	PWD2324WSOB21834

DIPR/C/2804/2024 अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग द्वितीय, जयपुर

Government of Rajasthan
DIRECTORATE OF CIVIL AVIATION
State VIP Hangar, Sanganer Airport, Jaipur-302011, Ph: 0141-2552623
Telefax: 0141-2720783, 0141-2550543, Mail: dcarajasthan@gmail.com
File No. 3 (10) DCA/2024/5146 **NOTICE INVITING BID** Date: 07.03.2024
Tender ID No. 2024_CIVAV_387314
Bid for Hiring of a Multi Engine Mid Size Jet Aeroplane on lease basis with a seating capacity of 10 passengers (excluding crew) for a period of **02 years for Travel of VVIPs** (estimated value of INR 75.00 Crores) is invited from interested bidder upto 14:00 hrs. on or before 02.04.2024. Other particulars of the bid may be seen on the procurement portals (https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in or https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in/).
UBN: DCA2324SLOB00024
Value75.00 crore
Manu Shankar Gupta
9928467674 DIPR/C/2829/2024 Director

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, जन स्वा. अभि. विभाग, जयपुर क्षेत्र-द्वितीय, गांधी नगर, जयपुर
ई-मेल:- ace.region2jaipur@yahoo.com, फोन नं.- 0141-2702700
क्रमांक: अमुअ/जन.क्षेत्र (द्वितीय)/2023-24/22261-292 दिनांक: 09.02.2024
निविदा सूचना
राजस्थान के राजपाल महोदय की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग एवं ग्राम सरकार, केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/इक एवं दू संचार विभाग/रेल्वे इत्यादि में उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट प्रक्रिया द्वारा निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

S. No.	NIT No.	Name of Work	Estt. cost (Rs. In lacs)	Earnest Money (Rs. in lacs)	Tender Fee (Rs.)	Tender document download starting Date	Last dt. online submission of bids	Technical Bid Opening date	Completion period
1.	133/2023/24	Carry out the work of O&M of drinking water supply scheme for Jagatpura, Pratapnagar and Mahal Road areas of Jaipur city for 5 years on private contract basis in single contract	619.8	(@2%) 12,38,360/- (@0.5%) 3,09,590/-	10000/-	12.02.2024 from 6.00 PM	13.03.2024 up to 6.00 PM	14.03.2024 at 03.00 PM	5 Years

निविदा से संबंधित विस्तृत विवरण निम्नलिखित वेबसाइट पर देखे जा सकते हैं।
(1) www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, (2) http://sppp.raj.nic.in
UBN:-
DIPRC/C/1922/2024 अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता जन स्वास्थ्य अभियान्त्रिकी विभाग जयपुर क्षेत्र-द्वितीय, जयपुर

Wheels India Limited
Regd Office : 21, Patullos Road, Chennai – 600 002
CIN : L35921TN1960PLC004175
Phone : 044-2623 4300; Fax : 044-26257121
Website : www.wheelsindia.com
Invites offers from interested parties for purchase of Mild Steel scrap items, for the two month period APRIL - MAY 2024.
Details of the items available for disposal and tender terms and conditions can be had from the Company on written request.
Sealed offers can be submitted to the **Sr. Vice President (Supply Chain)**, Wheels India Limited, Padi, Chennai - 600 050 **to reach on or before 28th MARCH 2024.**

KOCHI METRO RAIL LIMITED
(A joint venture company of Govt. of India & Govt. of Kerala)
4th Floor, JLN Stadium Metro Station, Kaloor, Ernakulam-682017
Ph: 0484-2846700

E-TENDER

1. **Design, Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Automated Electro- Mechanical Multi-Level Car Parking System at Ernakulam South Metro Station on EPC Mode**
Tender Id : 2024_KMRL_666594_1
Bid Submission End Date : 25-Mar-2024 05:00 PM
2. **Design, Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Automated Electro- Mechanical Multi-Level Car Parking System at Vadakkekotta Metro Station on EPC Mode**
Tender Id : 2024_KMRL_667962_1
Bid Submission End Date : 27-Mar-2024 05:00 PM
3. **Design, Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Automated Electro- Mechanical Multi-Level Car Parking System at Aluva Metro Station on EPC Mode**
Tender Id : 2024_KMRL_667998_1
Bid Submission End Date : 27-Mar-2024 05:00 PM
4. **KBC -06 Construction of Entry Exit Structure of Palarivattom Jn, Alinchuvadu, Chembumukku, Vazhakkala and Padamughal Metro Station for Phase II of Kochi Metro Rail Project (excluding Architectural and Building Service works)**
Tender Id : 2024_KMRL_668040_1
Bid Submission End Date : 29-Mar-2024 05:00 PM
5. **Supply and fixing of Stainless Steel(Grade 304) Handrails on the sides of footpath along National Highway and other specified stretches-Package A**
Tender Id : 2024_KMRL_662970_1
Bid Submission End Date : 15-Mar-2024 05:00 PM
6. **Supply and fixing of Stainless Steel(Grade 304) Handrails on the sides of footpath along National Highway and other specified stretches - Package B**
Tender Id : 2024_KMRL_663047_1
Bid Submission End Date : 15-Mar-2024 05:00 PM
7. **Development of Medians in the Metro Alignment which included covering of entire area by Paver tiles and MS Railing throughout length in the stretch from Edapally to S N Junction**
Tender Id : 2024_KMRL_668031_1
Bid Submission End Date : 27-Mar-2024 05:00 PM
8. **Design, Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Automated Electro- Mechanical Multi-Level Car Parking System at Edappally Metro Station on EPC Mode**
Tender Id : 2024_KMRL_668034_1
Bid Submission End Date : 27-Mar-2024 05:00 PM
9. **Design, Build, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of Floating Pontoons**
Tender Id : 2024_KMRL_668212_1
Bid Submission End Date : 20-Apr-2024 05:00 PM
10. **Design, build, testing, commissioning and delivery of 15 Nos of 100 Pax Passenger Boats**
Tender Id : 2024_KMRL_668278_1
Bid Submission End Date : 20-Apr-2024 05:00 PM

Tender documents can be downloaded from www.etenders.kerala.gov.in / www.kochimetro.org
Further corrigendum & addendum will be published only on website

RAMALLAH

Israeli forces kill two Palestinians at West Bank hospital in the north

AFP

Israeli forces shot dead two Palestinian men at a hospital in the West Bank on Wednesday, the latest in a spate of killings in the occupied territory since the war in Gaza began. The killings before dawn took place on the compound of the government hospital in Jenin, in the north of the West Bank, the hospital's director said. AFP

LONDON

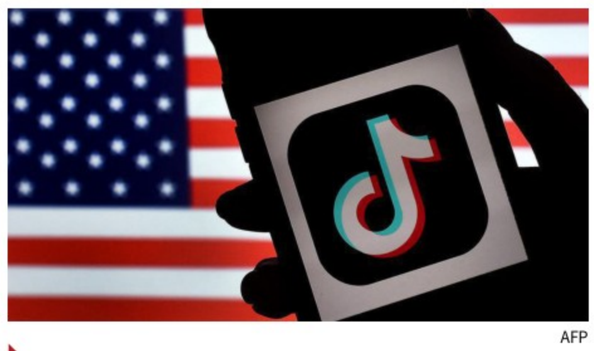
U.K. mulls plan to pay migrants to move to Rwanda voluntarily

AP

The U.K. government said on Wednesday it was considering a scheme to send rejected asylum seekers to Rwanda voluntarily and will reportedly pay them up to £3,000 to make the move. The plan is an extension of existing voluntary returns arrangements and part of the U.K.'s plan to deport migrants to the East African nation. AFP

WASHINGTON

U.S. House overwhelmingly passes Bill to ban Chinese-owned TikTok



AFP

The U.S. House of Representatives approved a Bill that would force TikTok to divest from its Chinese owner or get banned from the U.S.. The lawmakers voted 352 in favour and 65 against. The fate of the Bill is uncertain in the Senate, as some consider such a move drastic against an app that has 170 million U.S. users. AFP

VILNIUS

Navalny ally, Volkov, attacked outside home in Lithuania

AP

Leonid Volkov, a close ally of late Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, was assaulted outside his home in Vilnius on Tuesday, an incident that sparked an uproar from the Lithuanian government. Volkov, 43, is a prominent opposition figure and was Navalny's ex-chief of staff and chair of his Anti-Corruption Foundation. AFP

Nepal PM Prachanda wins vote of confidence, third time in 15 months

Floor test was called after he broke an alliance with the Nepali Congress and joined hands with the Unified Marxist-Leninist last week; the Maoist-Centre leader's coalition secured 157 votes, while 110 members, including Congress MPs, voted against

Sanjeev Satgainya
KATHMANDU

Number game: Prachanda required a minimum of 138 votes to pass the floor test in the 275-member parliament. REUTERS

Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' won a vote of confidence in parliament on Wednesday with the support of the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) and other smaller parties.

It was Prachanda's third confidence vote on Wednesday since he was elected Prime Minister in December 2022.

Speaker Devraj Ghimire announced after the vote that Prachanda secured 157 votes, while 110 members voted against.

In the 275-member parliament, he required a minimum of 138 votes to pass the floor test. During Wednesday's vote 268 members were present in parliament, the Speaker said.

In a dramatic move, Prachanda, a former rebel leader who led an armed struggle from 1996 to 2006, broke his one-year-old alliance with the Nepali Congress on March 4 to join hands with the UML.

The Nepali Congress, the largest party in parliament with 88 seats, voted against the confidence motion.

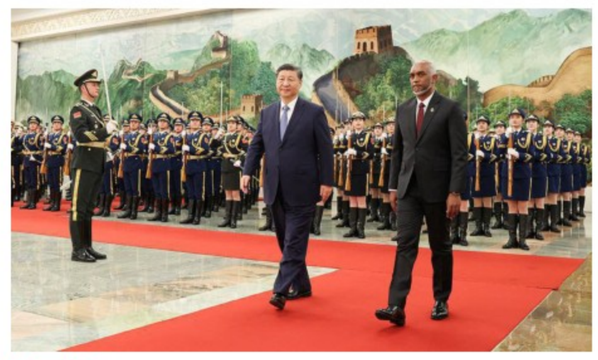
Prachanda's Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist-Centre) had fought the 2022 general elections under an alliance with the Congress. But following a row over which party should lead the government, Prachanda reached out to the UML, the second largest party with 78 seats, which supported him to become Prime Minister. Subsequently, he went for the floor test on January 10 last year, which he passed with flying colours as even the Congress voted in favour. He had secured 268 votes.

However, riled at Prachanda's decision to support the Nepali Congress presidential candidate, the UML withdrew support to the government in February, paving the way for the Congress to join the government. A year later, Prachanda, last week, ditched the Nepali Congress and forged a new Left alliance with the UML.

On Wednesday, besides the Maoist-Centre and the UML, Rastriya Swatantra Party, Janata Samajbadi Party, CPN (Unified Socialist), Nagarik Unmukti Party and Aam Janata Party (Prabhu Shah)) voted in favour of Prachanda.

Chinese military team visits Maldives, Sri Lanka, Nepal

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING



New allies: The Maldives signed a military assistance deal with China last week after ordering Indian troops to leave. REUTERS

A Chinese military delegation recently visited the Maldives, Sri Lanka and Nepal to discuss further cooperation in defence issues, Beijing said on Wednesday.

Beijing is seeking to build closer ties in South Asia in a push to counter its strategic rival India for influence.

Last week, the Maldives said it had signed a "military assistance" deal with China after ordering Indian troops deployed in the small but strategically-placed archipelago to leave.

Meeting with Muizzu

And Beijing confirmed on Wednesday that a delegation had visited the country and met with pro-China President Mohamed Muizzu during a trip that also took them to Sri Lanka and Nepal from March 4 to 13.

In all three countries, "they exchanged views on military relations and regional security issues of common concern", the Chinese military said in a statement. The delegation of officials from the military's international military cooperation department focused on "in-depth consultations on promoting bilateral defence cooperation".

"A series of consensus was reached to further enriched defence cooperation between the PLA and the relevant countries," it added, referring to the Chinese military by its official acronym.

As parties rush aid to Gaza, EU says hunger being used as weapon

Agence France-Presse
GAZA STRIP

Donor nations, aid agencies and charities pushed on with efforts on Wednesday to rush food to war-torn Gaza by land, air and sea after the EU top diplomat Josep Borrell said starvation had become "a weapon of war".

The Israel-Hamas conflict raging since October 7 has caused mass civilian deaths and sparked warnings of looming famine in the Palestinian territory of 2.4 million people.

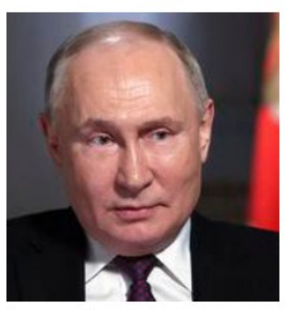
A Spanish charity vessel, the *Open Arms*, was on its way to Gaza from Cyprus with 200 tonnes of aid.

About half a dozen Arab and western nations have airdropped food parcels on parachutes into Gaza, and Morocco has sent a plane-load of relief supplies via Israel's Ben Gurion airport.

The UN World Food Programme sent an initial six aid trucks on Tuesday into worst-hit northern Gaza, through a gate in the security fence, the Israeli Army said.

Russia ready to use nuclear weapons if sovereignty is threatened, says Putin

Associated Press



Vladimir Putin

President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday that Russia is ready to use nuclear weapons if its sovereignty or independence is threatened, issuing another blunt warning to the West just days ahead of an election in which he's all but certain to secure another six-year term.

The Russian leader has repeatedly talked about his readiness to use nuclear weapons since invading Ukraine in February 2022. The most recent such threat came in his state-of-the-nation address last month, when he warned the West against getting too involved in the Ukraine war.

Asked in an interview on Wednesday if he has ever considered using nuclear weapons in Ukraine, Mr. Putin responded that there has been no need for that. He also said he does not think the world is heading for a nuclear war, describing U.S. President Joe Biden as a veteran politician who fully understands possible dangers of escalation.

Mr. Putin said that in line with the country's security doctrine, Moscow is ready to use nuclear weapons in case of a threat to "the existence of the Russian state, our sovereignty and independence." "All that is written in our strategy, we haven't changed it."

In an apparent reference to NATO allies that support Kyiv, he also declared that "the nations that say they have no red lines regarding Russia should realise that Russia won't have any red lines regarding them either."

Lithuania's Foreign Minister, Gabrielius Landsbergis, had recently said the West too often constrains itself with self-imposed "red lines" regarding Russia. He also welcomed a comment by French President Emmanuel Macron that the possibility of Western troops being sent to Ukraine could not be ruled out.

Pro-Kyiv militias urge civilians to flee cities bordering Russia

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Russian volunteer forces fighting alongside Kyiv on Wednesday urged civilians to flee Belgorod and Kursk, threatening large-scale attacks on military targets in the Russian border cities.

Groups of volunteer fighters, made up of Russians who oppose the Kremlin, said this week they had crossed into Russia from Ukraine and captured a village in the Russian border region of Kursk.

"We are forced to inflict shelling on military positions that are stationed in the cities of Belgorod and Kursk," said three groups, the Freedom of Russia Legion, the Russian Volunteer Corps and Sibir.

"We call on the local authorities to preserve human lives and begin evacuating the cities of Kursk and Belgorod," they added in a joint statement.

Moscow denied that the fighters had made ground this week, and later posted a statement alleging it had repelled all incursions.

Sport

A long wait, of varying degrees, ends for Arsenal and Barcelona

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Associated Press
LONDON

Show-stopper: Arsenal's Raya makes the match-winning save off the fourth penalty from Galeno of Porto. GETTY IMAGES

Arsenal's 14-year wait for a spot in the Champions League quarterfinals is over, thanks largely to David Raya's penalty saves.

Raya tipped one spot kick by Porto's Wendell against the post and then palmed away another from Galeno to secure a 4-2 win in the penalty shootout on Tuesday. It ended a long streak of round-of-16 losses for Arsenal, which had been eliminated at this stage in its last seven appearances in the competition but won 1-0 to level the aggregate score at 1-1.

It was a massive moment for Raya, who was brought in last summer to replace Aaron Ramsdale as Arsenal's No. 1 – a decision that has been frequently questioned by the club's supporters this season.

Arsenal trailed 0-1 from the first leg in Portugal – when Galeno scored the winner deep into stoppage time – but went level through Leandro Trossard's 41st-minute goal. Neither side could find another goal despite extra time as Porto's disciplined defensive tactics largely held Arsenal at bay.

Arsenal endured seven straight round-of-16 losses under Arsene Wenger between 2011-17.

Meanwhile, Barcelona too returned to the quarterfinals, for the first time in four years, with a 3-1 win over Napoli.

Fermin Lopez, Joao Cancelo and Robert Lewandowski scored for Barcelona as it advanced 4-2 on aggregate after a 1-1 draw in the first leg in Italy three weeks ago.

Amir Rrahmani scored for Napoli, which couldn't repeat its last-eight appearance from last season.

The results (last 16, second leg): Arsenal 1 (Trossard 41) bt FC Porto 0 (*tie level 1-1 on aggregate; Arsenal wins 4-2 on penalties after extra time*). Barcelona 3 (Fermin 15, Cancelo 17, Lewandowski 83) bt Napoli 1 (Rrahmani 30) (*Barcelona wins 4-2 on aggregate*).

Silver for Manish and bronze for Rubina

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Manish Narwal won the silver in men's air pistol in the para shooting WSPS World Cup on Wednesday.

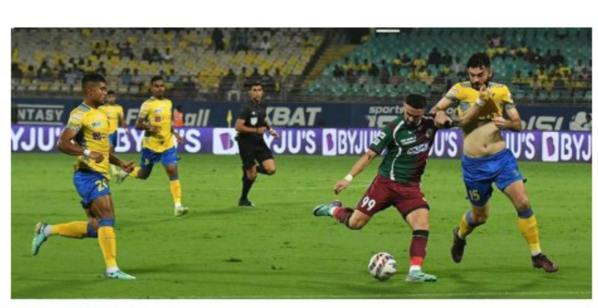
In P2 women's air pistol, Rubina Francis won the bronze after topping qualification.

The results: P1 men's air pistol: 1. Yang Chao (Chn) 240.3 (578); 2. Manish Narwal 236.7 (574); 3. Jo Jeongdu (Kor) 214.7 (565). **P2 women's air pistol:** 1. Krisztina Daid (Hun) 234.8 (564); 2. Oksana Berezovskaia (NPA) 230.4 (565); 3. Rubina Francis 211.2 (569). **R5 women's 50m rifle 3-position:** 1. Iryna Shchetnk (Ukr) 456.6 (1165); 2. Anna Benson (Swe) 454.7 (1176); 3. Zhang Cuping (Chn) 443.7 (1172); 5. Avani Lekhara 418.6 (1165); 6. Mona Agarwal 407.9 (1142).

Sadiku's brace powers MBSG past Kerala Blasters

ISL-10

Stan Rayan
KOCHI



On target: Sadiku scores Bagan's opener. THULASI KAKKAT

Albanian forward Armando Sadiku scored twice as Mohun Bagan Super Giant (MBSG) defeated a fighting Kerala Blasters 4-3 in an ISL thriller here on Wednesday.

Despite playing its last match at home just three days ago as compared to the 10-day break which Blasters enjoyed, Bagan stayed focused and managed to come on top every time the home side found the equaliser. The victory carried Bagan to 39 points, the same as the league leader Mumbai City, while Blasters stay on the fifth rung with 29.

Sadiku's opening goal had some drama to it. He had the Blasters' centre-backs Milos Drincic and Pritam Kotal on either side as he moved towards the box from the right. But the Bagan forward suddenly gave them the slip, dashed forward and sent the ball to the left corner. Drincic made a desperate attempt to hold him back but it was too late. Bagan's next two goals came from set pieces.

Diamantakos, who scored two of the three Blasters' goals, is now the joint top scorer this ISL season with Odisha FC's Roy Krishna (12 goals each).

The result: Blasters 3 (Vibin Mohanan 54, Diamantakos 63 & 90+9) lost to MBSG 4 (Armando Sadiku 4 & 60, Deepak Tangri 68, Jason Cummings 90+7).

NERVOUS

It feels like I am going to make my debut again, says Pant

Rishabh Pant will soon be back on the field 14 months after surviving a life-threatening car accident and ahead of that moment, the wicketkeeper-batter is “nervous” like a debutant all over again. “I am excited and nervous at the same time. It feels like I am going to make my debut again,” said Pant in a Delhi Capitals release.

PROGRESSING

Looking forward to next stage of my healing journey: Shami

Mohammed Shami on Wednesday said he was looking forward to the next phase of his "healing journey". "It has been 15 days since my surgery, and I recently had my stitches removed. I am thankful for the advancements and looking forward to the next stage of my healing journey," Shami wrote on 'X'.

ICING ON THE CAKE

Ravindra becomes the youngest to win Sir Richard Hadlee Medal

Rachin Ravindra became the youngest recipient of the Sir Richard Hadlee Medal at the New Zealand Cricket awards. Kane Williamson won the Test player of the year award while Amelia Kerr clinched the Debbie Hockley Medal after being named the ODI and T20I player of the year and the Super Smash Women’s Player-of-the-Year.

CAPTAIN’S KNOCK

Shanto in fine form as Bangladesh cruises past Sri Lanka in first ODI

Najmul Hossain Shanto’s unbeaten 122 powered Bangladesh to a six-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the first ODI in Chittagong.

The scores: Sri Lanka 255 in 48.5 overs (Janith Liyanage 67, Kusal Mendis 59) lost to Bangladesh 257/4 in 44.4 overs (Najmul Hossain Shanto 122 n.o., Mushfiqur Rahim 73 n.o.).

Capitals dwarf Giants to seal a spot in the final

After the Delhi bowlers shackle the Gujarat batters with an incisive display, Shafali’s rollicking half-century powers Lanning & Co. to a big win; MI faces RCB in the Eliminator on Friday

In a hurry: Shafali slammed boundaries at will to hasten Capitals’ victory. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

WPL SEASON 2

Lavanya L
NEW DELHI

Math in sports can sometimes be absurd. The inconsequential final league game between Delhi Capitals and Gujarat Giants had one outlandish caveat. If Giants beat Capitals by 118 runs, they could strip the latter of a second straight final appearance and force them to play in the Eliminator.

However, this game was not for those who wanted to watch the world burn. Capitals sauntered to a seven-wicket win at the Arun Jaitley Stadium here on Wednesday to end the league stage on top for the second season in a row.

Beth Mooney opted to bat but fell to Marizanne Kapp for a five-ball duck. Jess Jonassen ripped one into D. Hemalatha’s off-stump after which the South African stuck to her ‘two wickets in the Power-Play’ routine as Laura Wolvaardt holed out to Shafali Verma.

Ashleigh Gardner and Phoebe Litchfield, who have had an abysmal season with the bat, managed positive starts but lost their bearings to Minnu Mani and Shikha Pandey respectively.

Bharti Fulmali and Kathryn Bryce’s resistance, which saw the two stitch together a 68-run stand off 50 balls, helped the team reach a respectable 126 for nine.

In response, Meg Lanning and Shafali rattled up 31 in the first three overs. Shabnam Shakil, who has listed Lanning and Shafali in her list of dream wickets, was given a taste of quality batting.

While Lanning, who took over the Orange Cap from Deepti Sharma after crossing the 300-run mark in her second straight season, and Alice Capsey fell soon, Shafali dealt in boundaries even as Jemimah Rodrigues cheered her on from the other end. Shafali fell to Tanuja Kanwer going for a glory shot to finish the game.

However, that didn’t stop Capitals from winning with 6.5 overs to spare.

Final points table

	M	W	L	Pts	NRR
Delhi Capitals (Q)	8	6	2	12	1.198
Mumbai Indians (Q)	8	5	3	10	0.024
Royal Challengers (Q)	8	4	4	8	0.306
UP Warriorz	8	3	5	6	-0.371
Gujarat Giants	8	2	6	4	-1.158

Q: Qualified

SCOREBOARD

GUJARAT GIANTS
Laura Wolvaardt c Shafali b Kapp 7 *(11b, 1x4)*, Beth Mooney b Kapp 0 *(5b)*, D. Hemalatha b Jonassen 4 *(7b)*, Phoebe Litchfield c Radha b Minnu 21 *(22b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Ashleigh Gardner b Minnu 12 *(12b, 2x4)*, Bharti Fulmali b Shikha 42 *(36b, 7x4)*, Kathryn Bryce (not out) 28 *(22b, 4x4)*, Tanuja Kanwar b Shikha 0 *(1b)*, Shabnam Shakil run out 1 *(2b)*, Meghna Singh run out 4 *(2b, 1x4)*, Mannat Kashyap (not out) 0 *(0b)*; Extras (b-1, lb-4, w-2): 7; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 126.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-1 (Mooney, 0.6 overs), 2-12 (Hemalatha, 3.3), 3-16 (Wolvaardt, 4.2), 4-39 (Gardner, 8.4), 5-48 (Litchfield, 10.2), 6-116 (Bharti, 18.4), 7-116 (Tanuja, 18.5), 8-118 (Shabnam, 19.3), 9-122 (Meghna, 19.5).

CAPITALS BOWLING
Kapp 4-0-17-2, Shikha 4-0-23-2, Jonassen 4-0-32-1, Radha 2-0-17-0, Arundhati 3-0-20-0, Minnu 2-0-9-2, Capsey 1-0-3-0.

DELHI CAPITALS
Meg Lanning run out 18 *(10b, 4x4)*, Shafali Verma c Litchfield b Tanuja 71 *(37b, 7x4, 5x6)*, Alice Capsey c Mannat b Tanuja 0 *(4b)*, Jemimah Rodrigues (not out) 38 *(28b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Marizanne Kapp (not out) 0 *(0b)*; Extras (w-2): 2; Total (for three wkts. in 13.1 overs): 129.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-31 (Lanning, 3.1), 2-31 (Capsey, 3.5), 3-125 (Shafali, 12.6).

GIANTS BOWLING
Shabnam 2-0-15-0, Bryce 1-0-16-0, Tanuja 4-1-20-2, Meghna 2-0-28-0, Gardner 2-0-28-0, Mannat 2.1-0-22-0.

Toss: Gujarat Giants.
Player-of-the-Match: Shafali.
Delhi Capitals won by seven wickets with 41 balls to spare.

Karun and Wadkar dig deep to thwart Mumbai

RANJI TROPHY

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Karun Nair lived up to the tag of the senior pro with a defiant knock while Akshay Wadkar made an unbeaten fifty. As a result, despite the Mumbai spin trio bowling long spells on a fourth day pitch that offered slow turn, Vidarbha managed to keep the Ranji Trophy final alive.

At the end of the penultimate day’s proceedings at the Wankhede Stadium, Vidarbha finished with 248 for five, still 290 runs away from an improbable target of 538.

The specialist batters rectified their mistakes from the first essay, playing close to the body on most occasions. Karun (74, 220b, 3x4), especially, applied himself well for almost five hours on a slow turner. Had wicketkeeper Hardik Tamore not dropped him off Tanush Kotian when he was on 4, Vidarbha could have been in big trouble.

After all, Kotian and birthday boy Shams Mulani were on a roll – having dismissed openers Atharva Taide and Dhruv Shorey in successive overs soon after the drinks break. Kotian bowled the ball of the match, turning one sharply from way outside off and sneaking through a hapless Dhruv Shorey’s gap even before he got his bat down.

Vidarbha may have soon been staring down the barrel, derailing from 64 for no loss to 70 for three but Tamore’s reprieve gave Karun a chance to build the innings along with rookie Aman Mokhade who was tight with his defence.

The shot of the day, however, came from captain Wadkar towards the fag end. With speedster Tushar Deshpande employing a short-ball ploy with the second new ball, Wadkar played a magnificent upper cut to raise his bat for a fifty.

Defiant: Karun stepped up to the occasion when the chips were down for Vidarbha. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Until Wadkar came in when DRS appeal resulted in Yash Rathod being adjudged lbw by Musheer, Vidarbha was playing too cautiously. With the spinners deriving additional turn and the trio pitching it to precision, there was a 23-over boundary-less spell.

The lull was over, thanks to Wadkar’s cover drive off the first ball he faced and a pull off the fourth, both off Mulani. Despite Wadkar upping the ante, Mumbai bowlers stuck to their task and Musheer earned the prize scalp around 15 minutes before stumps with one that was full and turned just enough to kiss the line for Tamore to have the last laugh.

The scores:
Mumbai – 1st innings: 224.
Vidarbha – 1st innings: 105.
Mumbai – 2nd innings: 418.
Vidarbha – 2nd innings: Atharva Taide lbw b Mulani 32, Dhruv Shorey b Kotian 28, Aman Mokhade lbw b Musheer 32, Karun Nair c Tamore b Musheer 74, Yash Rathod lbw b Kotian 7, Akshay Wadkar (batting) 56, Harsh Dubey (batting) 11; Extras (b-1, lb-7): 8; Total (for five wkts. in 92 overs): 248.
Fall of wickets: 1-64, 2-64, 3-118, 4-133, 5-223.
Mumbai bowling: Mulani 29-8-56-1, Shardul 8-0-35-0, Kulkarni 5-0-20-0, Deshpande 10-0-35-0, Kotian 20-1-56-2, Musheer 20-3-38-2.

Getting runs in county gave me confidence, says Karun

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

The last time Karun Nair batted in a Ranji Trophy match at the Wankhede Stadium – also a final – he registered the highest individual score in a Ranji final with a sterling knock of 328. While Vidarbha would have wanted him to repeat his heroics, Karun stretched the game into the last day’s play with a sedate knock of 74 on the penultimate day of the final against Mumbai.

The knock capped off Karun’s return to Ranji Trophy with a tally of 690 runs. More than being set to end as Vidarbha’s leading run-scorer in his maiden season as a pro (Akshay Wadkar has a tally of 591 and is at the crease), Karun was elated with being back in the domestic circuit after being dropped by his alma mater Karnataka the previous season.

“Quite honestly, I was really happy to play after a year. I haven’t faced challenges as such. Everyone has been really welcoming, there is a good atmosphere in the team. Over the season, I really got to know people and understand them better,” Karun said.

The 32-year-old admitted that the County Championship stint with Northamptonshire gave him the confidence ahead of the season. “I have batted well this season in all formats. At least this season, I have got quite a few runs. I played a few games in the County Championship and started getting runs and that gave me confidence,” Karun said.

“If I could score in the Oval, score 150 when the conditions are much tougher, that gave me a lot of confidence before I came here.”

Tanish-Ashwini pair and Lakshya advance

ALL ENGLAND

Press Trust of India
BIRMINGHAM

World Championship bronze medallist shuttler Lakshya Sen moved into the second round with an easy straight game win over Denmark’s Magnus Johannesen at the All England Championships here on Wednesday.

The 22-year-old brushed aside the Dane 21-14, 21-15 in 40 minutes in the men’s singles opening round contest. In the round of 16, he will meet another Danish opponent in fourth seed Anders Antonsen.

The women’s doubles pair of Tanish Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa also progressed to the round of 16 with a comfortable 21-13, 21-18 win over Hong Kong’s Yeung Nga Ting and Yeung Pui Lam.

However, it was curtains for young Priyanshu Rajawat, who lost a hard-fought men’s singles contest to Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo 19-21, 21-1, 9-21.

Lakshya. GETTY IMAGES

Toofans overcome Heroes’ challenge, climb to the top of Super 5 standings

PVL

Saikat Chakraborty
CHENNAI

Delhi Toofans registered a 14-16, 15-9, 15-11, 15-13 win to leapfrog opponent Calicut Heroes and go to the top of the Super 5 table in the Prime Volleyball League here on Wednesday.

The first set was a nail-biter, with both teams showcasing their attacking prowess. Calicut’s Ukkra Pandian and Jerome Vinith displayed their skills, while Delhi’s Daniel Aponza countered with a barrage of powerful smashes. However, a crucial net fault by Aponza handed Heroes a two-point advantage, allowing them to snatch the set 16-14. The second set remained equally close, with the score at 8-8. A successful review by Toofans turned the tide in their favour, and with the help of their opposite hitter Lazar Dodic, they secured the set. The momentum shifted in the third as Dodic and Rohit Kumar stepped up for Delhi. Aponza continued to shine with impressive blocks, thwarting Heroes’ attempts to regain control.

Delhi’s Toofan! Anand makes a spectacular return in the match against Heroes. M. VEDHAN

The fourth saw Heroes take an early lead (7-5) but Toofans clawed their way back, tying the score at 11. They strategically called for a ‘Super Point,’ a high-pressure opportunity to win the set with a single point.

Unsuccessful review

Chirag Yadav’s attempt sailed out and Heroes’ desperate review proved unsuccessful. Delhi clinched the set 15-13, sealing a hard-fought win.

The result:
Delhi Toofans bt Calicut Heroes 14-16, 15-9, 15-11, 15-13.

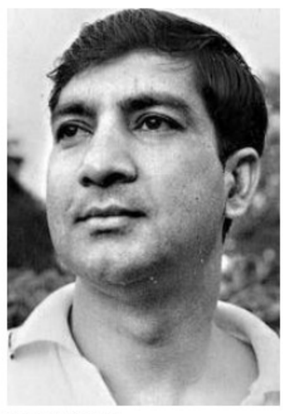
Olympian shuttler Bhatia passes away

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Wing Commander Satish Bhatia, a former junior World badminton champion, National champion and Olympian, passed away on Wednesday.

The Dehradun-born Wg. Cdr. Bhatia earned the World title in 1960, was crowned India’s best in 1968 while representing the then Mysore state and participated in the 1972 Munich Games where badminton was introduced for the first time, as a demonstration sport, in the Olympics. He also featured in the Thomas Cup for India.

Bhatia had a distinguished career in the Indian Air Force which he joined in 1964 as a transport pilot. He flew Devons and Dakotas from Bengaluru and also from Lucknow, and was part of two wars – the 1965 conflict with Pakistan and the 1971 campaign for Bangladesh’s liberation.



Satish Bhatia.
THE HINDU ARCHIVES

INBRIEF

Ashwin reclaims top spot among Test bowlers

A nine-wicket haul in his 100th Test match helped Indian off-spinner R. Ashwin reclaim the top spot in the bowlers' list, while his captain Rohit Sharma was back in the top-10 at sixth in the batting charts of the latest ICC rankings on Wednesday.

India takes lead over Lanka in blind cricket series

India defeated Sri Lanka by seven wickets in the third T20 to take an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match Samarth championship for blind cricket in New Delhi on Wednesday. Chandana Deshapriya (76) helped Sri Lanka post 162 for three after being asked to bat. Dinesh Rathva, Naresh Tumda, Lokesh and Pankaj Bhue, who was adjudged player-of-the-match, contributed with the bat as India made 164 for three in 15.3 overs.

Bairstow available for full IPL season for Punjab Kings

England batter Jonny Bairstow will be available for the entire duration of the Indian Premier League, beginning March 22. The BCCI officials were in talks with their England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) counterparts over the availability of their players for the IPL. Ben Stokes, Joe Root and Mark Wood had already made themselves unavailable. "Bairstow is expected to arrive in India on March 18 or 19," said a source.

Winning streak: Karnataka's victory helped it complete the red-ball double in age-group cricket, also for the first time. K. MURALI KUMAR

Karnataka clinches its maiden title

It's the first trophy we have got at U-23 level; we just need to carry this momentum and win as many as we can, says skipper Smaran

C.K. NAYUDU TROPHY

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka won its maiden Col. C.K. Nayudu (U-23) Trophy after overcoming Uttar Pradesh by virtue of having secured the first-innings lead, at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Wednesday.

The victory comes less than two months after Karnataka clinched the Cooch Behar (U-19) Trophy, helping complete the red-ball double in age-group cricket, also for the first time.

Skipper R. Smaran was elated with the win.

"We have been waiting for a long time and it's a very proud moment for Karnataka," he said. "It's the first trophy we have got at U-23 level. Earlier, we used to come, play knockouts and go. Now that we have won this, it is a stepping stone. We just need to carry this momentum and win as many as we can."

Fine double ton

On the final day, Karnataka, starting from an overnight 444 for five, was bowled out for 585, but not before K.V. Aneesh helped himself to a fine double-century (214, 273b, 18x4, 6x6).

Chasing a mammoth 805, UP threatened to fold and give the host the added satisfaction of an outright win.

Pacer Manvanth Kumar (5/36) had UP opener Rituraj Sharma off the second ball of the innings before going on to reduce the visitors to 34 for three.

But a 103-run partnership for the fifth wicket between Swastik (67, 78b, 7x4, 3x6) and Vipraj Nigam (73, 54b, 9x4, 2x6) arrested the slide. UP eventually finished on 174 for six, with the game called off roughly an hour before close.

The scores: Karnataka 358 & 585 in 151.5 overs (MacNeil H. Noronha 79, Prakar Chaturvedi 86, K.V. Aneesh 214, R. Smaran 40, Kruthik Krishna 86, Kunal Tyagi 4/90) drew with Uttar Pradesh 139 & 174 for six in 31 overs (Swastik 67, Vipraj Nigam 73, Manvanth Kumar 5/36).

Smriti credits RCB management for revival in fortunes

WPL SEASON 2

Lavanya L
NEW DELHI

An improved show with bat and ball helped Royal Challengers Bangalore not only register its first-ever win against Mumbai Indians in the Women's Premier League but also make it to the play-offs of the tournament for the first time. Captain Smriti Mandhana credited the RCB management for its support to players and staff alike.

"Last season didn't go our way. It wasn't a bad team. We didn't step up and play the cricket we wanted to play. A lot of hard work and thought has gone into this over the past 12 months, not only from my side but all the support staff and the RCB management. For them to show their faith in all of us was just amazing," Smriti told reporters after her side's seven-wicket win against MI on Tuesday.

"I wouldn't say that (this has been a) really satisfying campaign still, but we had a lot of ups and downs, but that's how WPL and T20 cricket is. You'll have good days and bad days."

"One important talk we had was to not look at the other games as its not in our hands. It takes away the cricketing talk. We treated it as quarterfinal, semifinal, final and spoke about playing our best cricket," she said.

Smriti hailed crowd support for the franchise in both legs.

"I was surprised to see the whole crowd chanting RCB during the match against Delhi Capitals. It's not something you expect to see. At the end of it, women's cricket is the winner. Of course, franchise has its own fan base for the last 15-odd years.

"Their expectations and whatever they say about us - good or bad –is important to have in the group because it motivates us to do better for them.

"As women cricketers, we've wanted this to happen and it is an amazing thing to watch it happen," she said.

Keeping faith: Smriti believes backing players have done wonders for the side. R.V. MOORTHY

Bengaluru will try to keep its campaign alive

ISL-10

Sports Bureau

Bengaluru FC will look for its first away win of the 2023-24 Indian Super League campaign and the three points that can keep its hunt for a playoff spot alive when it meets FC Goa at the JN Stadium in Fatorda on Thursday.

Manolo Marquez's Goa may have sealed a playoff berth with a 3-3 draw against Punjab FC, but has just one win to show from its last seven encounters.

BFC, on the other hand, is coming off two consecutive victories over Hyderabad FC (2-1) and Kerala Blasters (1-0).

It is currently eighth in the table (21 points from 18 matches) and can move up to sixth, the last of the qualification places.

"I don't think there's ever a perfect time to play FC Goa," BFC head coach Gerard Zaragoza insisted ahead of the tie.

Tough game

"They are a very good team with very good individual qualities and this will be a tough game.

"They could have very easily won the game against Punjab, and that too by a lot of goals. They play very good football."

Marquez will be without the services of former BFC centre-back Sandesh Jhingan because of an injury. Zaragoza will have a fully fit squad at his disposal following the return of Halicharan Narzary and Keziah Veendorp.

Gerard Zaragoza.
K. MURALI KUMAR

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Naocha optimistic that Bengaluru United will keep up the good work

FC Bengaluru United attacker Ngangbam Naocha expressed hope that the club would continue its good work when it resumes action in I-League 2 on March 23 against Maharashtra Oranje FC.

FCBU currently leads the table with 13 points from six matches, one point ahead of fellow city dweller Sporting Club Bengaluru.

"Going into the second half of the season we are keen to not repeat our mistakes," said Noacha, who joined FCBU ahead of the 2023-24 season and scored the winner in the 1-0 win over Sporting Club de Goa in January.

"We have analysed our weak areas and are learning from them. We are hoping to be more attentive to detail, follow our coach's instructions and are looking forward to the second half of the season."

Ngangbam Naocha in action.

Easy win for Bangalore Eagles

Bangalore Eagles FC registered a 3-0 win over BTM FC in the BDFA A-division league here on Wednesday.

The results: A-div: Bangalore Eagles FC 3 (Yokshim A. Wungshi 33, 47, Huidrom Rishi Raj Singh 48) bt BTM FC 0.

B-div: Bangalore Warriors FC 1 (Kaviarasan 22) drew with Veterans FC 1 (Nithin Paul 35+2); South India FC 4 (Devendra 30, K. Lalrinfela 47, 56, K. Nishchal Kumar 64) bt Royals FC 0.

LIVE TELECAST

Ranji Trophy: (final), day 5, Jio Cinema App, 9.30 a.m.

Badminton: All-England Championships, BWF YouTube Channel & Jio Cinema App, 3.30 p.m. onwards

PVL: Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 6.30 & 8.30 p.m.

ISL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App,7.30 p.m.

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